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DECEMBER
1958

SKIN DIVER

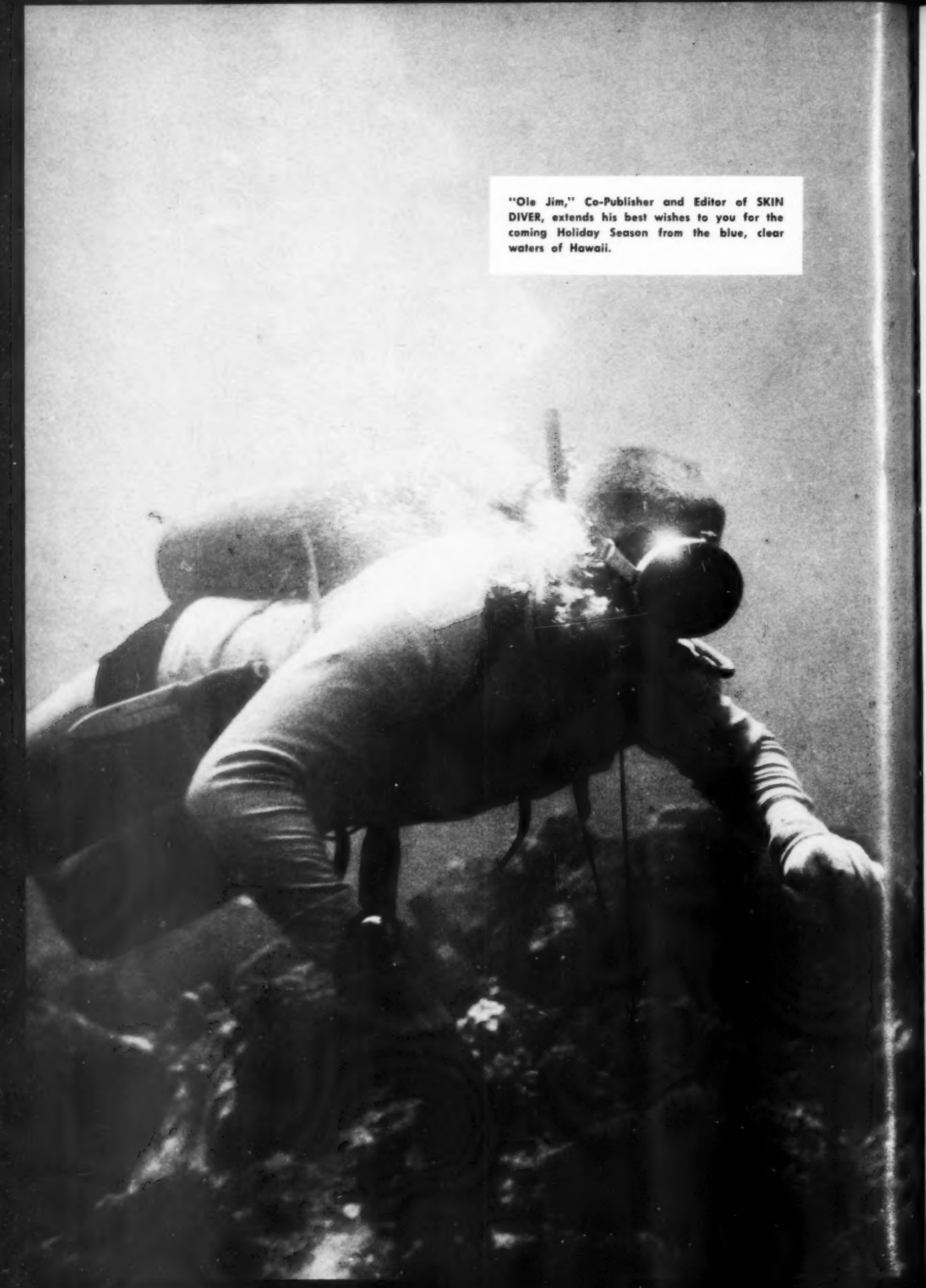
A G A Z I N E

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Russian

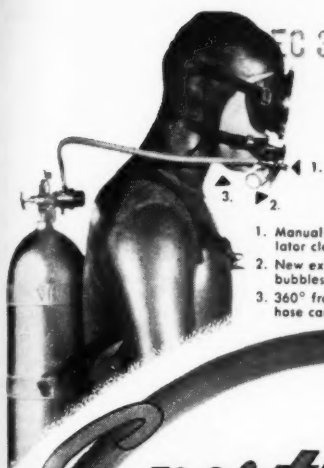
ART AND MUSIC
Spearfishermen

By Gustav Dalla Valle



"Ole Jim," Co-Publisher and Editor of SKIN DIVER, extends his best wishes to you for the coming Holiday Season from the blue, clear waters of Hawaii.

DEC 3 - 1958



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Captain Walter B. Miller... Director of Range Operations, U.S. Naval Missile Range Center, Point Mugu, California, has now selected the WATERLUNG for his personal use. He has used every type S.C.U.B.A. made... in his many years of diving. He is shown here with the WATERLUNG... coming aboard ship after diving operations off the Pacific Coast.



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SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE

LYNWOOD, CALIFORNIA, U. S. A.

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Underwater World*

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CHUCK BLAKESLEE
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notes



CHUCK BLAKESLEE

TURN to inside front cover.
See the diver . . . that's "ole
Jim," editor and co-publisher of
SKIN DIVER. Strangely enough,
the publishers are asked quite often "do you dive, too?" Well
now . . . it would probably be better if we didn't. No doubt we
could line our pockets in a grand fashion with more attention to
paper shuffling, etc., and less time exploring the great unknown.

We are affected just as you are. We can't stay out of the water
too long without going into a dogmatic stupor with no interest in
the world about us, just anticipating the next dive. Like many
sportsminded people we have cast aside all other interests, golf,
hunting, mountain climbing, skiing, all of which are most enjoyable
outside activities, and are now rolled into a little ball of proto-
plasm that must be constantly nurtured and fed by a fairly con-
centrated saline solution. Yes, we are addicts of the sport and in
order to lead a near normal life must receive a regular immersion
in order to tolerate the topside world.

Back in December of 1951 Jim and myself introduced the first
issue of SKIN DIVER to a few individuals and clubs on the west
coast. By word of mouth and by mail the magazine was carried
around the world and is now read in 79 countries with an esti-
mated readership of 100 to 150 thousand.

The first magazine was the same dimension as it is today but
was rather thin, only 16 pages, and had just six advertisers. At
that time diving equipment was hard to find and some of it quite
primitive. Rubber suits had just been introduced along with the
"Aqua-Lung." We hope we have been instrumental in encourag-
ing this wonderful pastime that has been described as the world's
fastest growing sport.

Jim Auxier, your editor, has followed a similar pattern of many
divers, getting his share of fish in the neighborhood of a hundred
pounds or more, granddaddy sized lobster and plenty of abalone
steaks for the table.

Jim now collects salt water specimens for his 15 gallon office
aquarium. His small octopus and fishes are a delight to everyone.
He has also become a fanatic in taking underwater pictures and is
often seen encumbered with movie and still camera plus lightmeter
around his neck at the same time. He has found, like you have,
that there are beautiful, strange and unusual things to be seen
underwater. The excitement in the chase of a small aquarium
specimen often times is more intriguing and requires more ingenu-
ity than preparing a large black sea bass. Although we live in a
topside prefabricated world, down there are many answers to a
better existence.

With the coming holiday season close at hand, we extend our
best wishes and have enjoyed being of service in bringing you
SKIN DIVER magazine these past seven years.

CHUCK BLAKESLEE
Co-publisher

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december cover

Santa's undersea helper? An invasion from planet Neptune?
A stray from a ballet cast? Your guess is as good as ours. We
can tell you that the photo image was captured by the camera of
Bruce Mozart in Florida's Silver Springs and we believe that he
used a green flood light to make this fantastic, extraordinary under-
water portrait. The subject is Miss Betty Frazee, one of the
most attractive features of the beauty spot of the nation, Silver
Springs.

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(This Coupon Not Good After December 31, 1958)

Buy any Skooba-"totes" products from your dealer at the regular prices. Then mail this Coupon to the factory along with box labels showing style numbers and the sales slip from store. Include \$1.00 to cover postage and handling. We will send you the duplicate of your purchase FREE. Be sure to state sizes wanted.

IF YOUR DEALER CAN'T SUPPLY YOU—enclose this Coupon and money order for items wanted. Be sure to state sizes wanted for all items. We'll have your Skooba-"totes" sent promptly. Sorry, no C.O.D.

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Seamless, form-fitting stretchy rubber trunks. Easy on, off. No buckles or drawstrings. Provides excellent support. Sizes: Small, Medium, Large. Regular Price \$4.95 ea.

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SKIN DIVER—December, 1958

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LETTERS

... We've got a question. While leafing through the September issue of "Skin Diver," before getting down to the serious business of reading it page by page, word by word, we came across a picture of Charles McNabb and Bob Boyd in what we would call an embarrassing position. Charles McNabb in his article on the unnecessary tragedy of two boys in Salt Spring stated as follows: "But were wearing only standard tanks, good for a short time at this depth." (Not exact words but the same meaning.) Now even assuming Bob and Charles knew the location of the bodies of the unfortunate, why were they equipped in the same way? One single 70 as it appears in the photo. And here's our real question, why did Bob Boyd have his regulator upside down? Or is this a new type we've not run across?

We have here in our club, Devils of the Deep, Okinawa, a copy of every issue of "Skin Diver" that has been published, no upside down regulators before. Could you clear this matter up for us?

Devils of the Deep
Okinawa

... I have received a number of letters as a result of the article I sent you entitled "Underwater Tragedy" which appeared in the Sept. issue of SKIN DIVER. Most of these were praising us for our efforts and thanking me for a message that helped bring home the danger of poor judgement in diving. However there were a couple of letters that were very critical of the article. I could do like dear old Kohler and say "I never answer fanatics," however to set their minds at rest I will answer the two questions that were asked.

The first question was, "Why did Boyd have his regulator on upside down?" Well if you remember the picture that helped make Jayne Mansfield famous (It showed her at the premiere of Underwater at Florida's Silver Springs, and she was putting on a scuba unit) you MIGHT have noticed her regulator was on upside down. It was no doubt caused by excitement on the part of the man that assembled the unit. A different kind than the day of the tragedy, but excitement just the same. Boyd's regulator was put on the tank by another diver, no doubt quite excited, and the unit was put on Boyd while he helped me assemble a high powered underwater light. The picture was taken while we discussed our dive plan. Just prior to submerging he reached back to check the tank valve and discovered the regulator was upside down. He then had it changed and we descended as planned. I might also at this point inform the questioning divers that a Lung WILL function upside down. The exhale, inhale hoses are reversed and the hose is a little uncomfortable and could possibly crimp, but it will work.

Second question: "Why were the rescuers wearing only standard tanks while the author criticized the victims for wearing only standard tanks." My criticism was because the victims had gone EXPLORING in UNKNOWN WATERS at a depth where their air supply was very limited. Furthermore they did not have a safety line to the surface. This was not intended to infer that an experienced diver could not make a fast exactly planned and timed dive to this depth safely on a single tank. The fact that we recovered the bodies safely proves this point.

Having been in this Spring many times I

knew exactly where the bodies were from my talk with the surviving diver. I also knew the exact depth and the time necessary for us to reach the bodies and return to the surface safely. Single tanks were worn to enable us to move thru the two holes faster and with less effort on our return with the bodies. Watches and depth gauges were worn and we knew exactly where we should be every minute of the dive. We also used a safety line attached to the surface. If we had been cave exploring at this depth I assure you we would have had on at least two tanks.

For your own information I have been diving professionally eight years and a good many years before that as a hobby. I have worked as a sponge diver, salvage diver, underwater photographer, life guard, diving instructor, movie stunt man, and have been in charge of water safety on several movies and other diving operations. Some of the pictures I have worked on as a diver were: Universal's "Creature From The Black Lagoon" (all three pictures in this series), Disney's "20,000 Leagues Beneath The Sea", KB's "They Came To Destroy The Earth", Columbia's "Forbidden Island", "Wide Wide World TV" (two times), and many short subjects. Also did underwater maintenance for Florida's Weeki Wachee Spring mermaid show for one year.

If the writers of the critical letters are as exacting in their diving as they are at studying pictures and drawing conclusions without knowing all the facts, perhaps they will live to a ripe old age.

At any rate if the article has caused even one person to think about, and improve, their diving habits it may have saved a life. This was the whole purpose of the article and I pray to God this has been accomplished.

Charles R. McNabb

... regarding the letter sent to you by Gene Tinker. He refers to two boys who "had only enough money for a single hose regulator." Is there anything wrong with this type? I am quite interested since I also have that type. I assume that since it is of the "Cousteau-Gagnan" design and is advertised in SD that there are no inherent imperfections in its construction. His alarm, I guess, was due to the apparent ignorance of these boys to the rights and wrongs of safe diving. Mr. Tinker was very fortunate in having an experienced and competent man to instruct him on the proper use of scuba. I was not so fortunate. I have read over 25 books and countless pamphlets on the subject of scuba diving in my pursuit of information.

I would like to see the rules and regulations and application blanks to any clubs that will be good enough to send them to me. Please continue to publish such a fine magazine.

Larry Lengle
208 No. Tenth Street
Newark 7, New Jersey

... reference to article in October SD about William Royal attempting to set a depth record for Florida spring diving. I am trying to locate him and request that you publish this letter.

Ray Fisher
Johnston Island 1953-54
Rt. 1, Box 317
Eau Galle, Florida

... enclosed is my renewal subscription to SD for one year. Also this letter is to try to find the whereabouts of any sunken ships around the Eric-Buttalo area. Up to this time my diving experiences have not included wreck diving. I would appreciate hearing from any divers knowing locations.

Jack M. Ballenge
R.D. No. 1
Renfrew, Penna.

(More LETTERS on page 9)

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with
portable Compressor

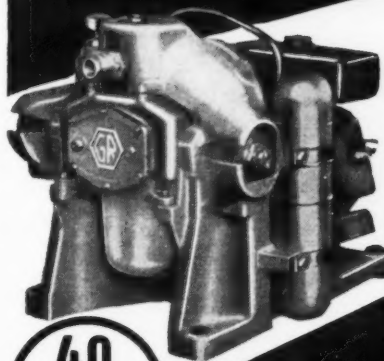
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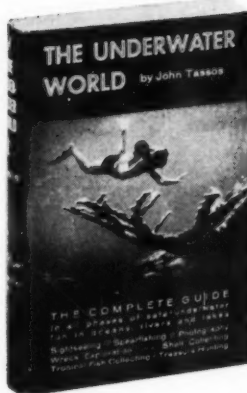
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by Bruce W. Halstead

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Underwater Book Shelf Department ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

To order books from this department please give the full name of the book desired and the book number. Be positive to print or type your full name and address on your letter. Send full amount of money for all of your purchases by check or money order payable to "Skin Diver" to: Underwater Book Shelf Dept. SKIN DIVER Magazine Lynwood, California

LETTERS

... this is to inform all clubs and companies of a change of address. Maryland Underwater Research, Rescue, Recovery Team. Box 501, Frederick, Maryland.

... Members of the club would appreciate all future correspondence sent to our new address: Pokey Penguins, 26 So. 12th Street, San Jose, California.

... Bob Meuser, Tom Ristenpart and Walt Mitchell, all skin divers of Oakland, California, have finally perfected a device to suck and process gold bearing sands from river bottoms after three years of experimenting. The pump and sluice box are all brought under the water and is constructed of aluminum. All three divers are doing well in the venture and plan to start prospecting full time early in 1959.

Bob Meuser
Oakland, California.

... before we, Bill Ellis, Dick Palmer, Henry Brom and Don McLellan are ridden out of Michigan on a rail, correct the statement made in NEWS CURRENT, October issue of SD, that we discovered the remains of the Cuka, an old gambling ship that sank in Lake Charlevoix, Michigan. I'm afraid this is far from true... the Cuka is Michigan's equivalent of Grant's Tomb and has had more divers crawl over it than fish in the lake.

Please, please, insert a squib somewhere in your fine magazine that we did not discover this wreck and we'll all become subscribers for life.

Don C. McLellan
Saginaw, Mich.

(Lifetime subscriptions to the magazine are \$50 each fellows. Our original information came from a newspaper clipping.)

... While I have a great deal of respect for Gene Parker who is well known to us in New England I must record my concern over his attempt at a record non-scuba dive (Pg. 24 Skin Diver, Oct. '58). Most of us know that, apart from air containing spaces, the body for all intents and purposes is incompressible. In a recent record dive (excluding a 1948 dive to 540 ft. in a helmet suit) a helmet dive was made in which the body was subjected to 34,000 pounds per square foot without harm. This implies that the body must breathe a medium at the same pressure to which the diver is subjected.

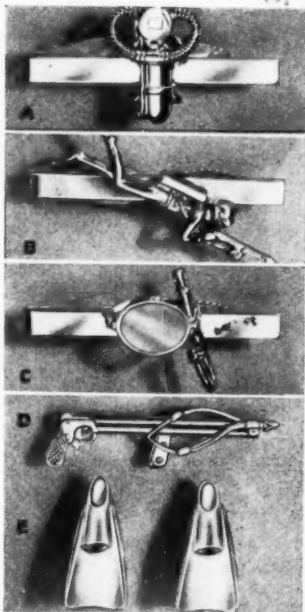
A swimmer holding his breath and descending will at around 100 feet (4 atm. abs.) have his lung volume compressed to about the volume of the residual air (that volume left in the breathing system after a maximum exhalation.) To descend further would increase the pressure, decrease the volume and produce a "lung squeeze". Fluid and blood may be forced into the lungs and the damage may be severe.

One of our primary purposes is to avoid foolhardy risks in skin and scuba diving. Publicizing an attempt of this kind may result in the "lunatic fringe" flocking to go deeper and deeper with possible consequent disastrous results.

John K. Whelan
N.H. Sea Skates
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LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

... in the more than five and a half years that I have been diving I have had to make modifications and improvements on almost every piece of gear bought. In some cases local conditions even warrant the invention of new gear. Don't you think it's about time SD did something about improving its service to readers by prompting the manufacturers to improve the quality of their products?

I have two suggestions to make: Urge manufacturers to sponsor a beneficial suggestion program with cash or equipment prizes for suggestions that prove worthwhile ... and start a "how to improve your gear" column in the magazine and invite people to share their equipment experience with others.

Herb Ward

Agana, Guam

(First answer: Most of the manufacturers will read your letter and then take a long look at the quality of their product ... second answer: Watch for the re-appearance of "Odds & Ends" in future issues.)

... The University of Oregon Marine School sponsored a scuba diving class at North Bend this summer and processed ten graduates. One of the graduates was Wally Lee, of the Coos Bay Police Dept., and another was

Howard Lentz of the County Sheriff's Office. I was the class instructor, having graduated from the Scripps Marine School Scuba Diving class last April. I took this class so that I could be a competent instructor for the University of Oregon Marine School at Charleston, and am planning a series of scuba diving classes throughout the state this winter and spring.

Leo A. Harris

Director of Athletics
University of Oregon

... May I express my sincerest thanks for your kind offer of monthly publication on the first National Convention of Skin Divers to be held February 21 and 22, 1959 at the Hotel Bradford, Boston, Massachusetts. The officers of the Council (Northeast) are firm in their belief and sincere in their efforts to sponsor this convention. We face the future without reservation knowing fullwell the task ahead. As President of the Council I am extremely grateful in the knowledge of capable fellow officers and member clubs who have placed every means at their disposal to make this first convention a booming success.

Richard D. Myers
President, Northeast
Council

Power Divers

1318 South Center, Compton, Calif.

This note is long overdue, however, we felt it is better late than never. Due to reorganization and other functions, we have been slow in getting out our correspondence relating to the 1958 Competitive Diving season.

At this time we want to express our sincerest thanks to you and all of the members of the Power Divers who contributed so much to making our competitive meets this year the best and safest ever. We realize each of you contributed much of your personal time, boats and fuel to provide water safety facilities at our meets. The manner in which you carried out the safety program is a credit to your skilled organization.

It would be a great help to competitive skin diving if a film, starting with the launching of your boats, carrying through the meet into completion, could be made to help the other parts of the country see how effectively safety can be worked into all diving meets.

Thanks again for the help of the Power Divers during 1958. We sincerely hope we can continue where we left off in 1959.

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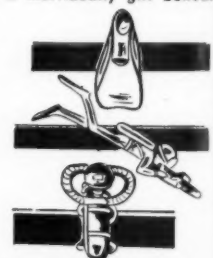
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Endurance team captain Bennett Winston (left) and manager Austin Huhn with Cornelius compressor.

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A LOOK AT THE RUSSIAN SPEARFISHERMAN



1958 Russian Championship
Emblem

An Exclusive Interview for Skin Diver Magazine

By Gustav Dalla Valle

**First complete
review of
underwater
activities in
Russia**

**U.S.S.R. plans
to have
team at 1959
World Championship**

I KNOW quite a lot about spearfishing around the world, of men and the sport, but lately I have wondered about what is happening in Russia. In Portugal, at the 1958 World Championship, I was given an answer. The Russians did not send a team to the Championship this year, but sent two official observers, Mr. Pavel Stortchienko and Mr. Vladimir Masukevitch. Because the American team was not at the Championship, I also was an observer, and we spent a lot of time together talking about skin diving. Pavel Stortchienko, a veteran diver, was very glad to give me all the information I asked, through the interpreter, Mr. Masukevitch, for our Skin Diver readers.

When did spearfishing start in Russia, Mr. Stortchienko?

The first independent individuals started spearfishing about five years ago. It is only two years that spearfishing has been organized and is considered a regular sport.

How has skin diving been organized?

The Central Sea Club of Moscow is a national organization which officially represents all nautical sports in Russia. It was natural that two years ago they started a skin diving section. The Central Sea Club has subdivisions throughout the country. The first division of skin diving was opened in Moscow, and now there are divisions in all the Central Sea Club branches.

How many skin divers are there in Russia?

In the Moscow division there are 400. Altogether there are several thousand. Even though it started only two years ago, it has grown surprisingly fast, especially considering the extremely limited possibilities for diving. All new members of the club must first undergo a rigid medical examination. Then they must attend a diving school organized by the Club, including lectures, films, techniques and theories of diving, and practical application in a swimming pool. If the applicant successfully passes the examinations, he is officially accepted. The enthusiasm of the applicants is great and they rarely miss club meetings.

Where do you dive?

Despite the large area of our country, our diving is unfortunately limited to the Crimea, on the Black Sea, and we can dive only in the summer. The temperature is typical of the Mediterranean. The water is clear but it is not rich with fish, nor are the fish very large—an average catch in one day is about 20 pounds. However we are now discovering the practicalness of the rubber suit, and certainly in the future we will start diving in other areas. *I asked them what types of fish there are, but Mr. Masukevitch spoke only Spanish and did not know the Spanish names,—and I certainly did not understand the Russian.*

Considering the vastness of your country, and you dive only in the Crimea, it must be quite an expedition for your divers to get to their destination.

Our club takes care of that. In Russia, everybody has a one month paid vacation. The club arranges for all members to have their vacation at the Crimea, where there is an organization which gives all facilities, equipment included, for skin diving. All living expenses are paid by the club also.

It seems to me that if one is not a member of the Club, it is difficult to go skin diving.

It does appear that way, and in a certain sense it is true, but there are quite a few who discovered the sport while vacationing at the Crimea. They buy equipment in a local sports goods store and go diving by themselves. But with the Club it is more practical and economical. Perhaps, if the possibilities for spearfishing were greater, we would have more independent divers. *Do you have any sort of laws, as they have in France, for instance, that prohibit spearfishing with scubas?*

No. In fact, there are a few people who fish with lungs, though we try to discourage it because we think it is not sporting.

I hear that you are quite a skin diver yourself, Mr. Stortchienko.

I was one of the first to start spearfishing in Russia, five years ago. I am now technical director for the Central Sea Club Underwater Section. It is a full time job. In the case of our participation in future International Competitions, I will be the coach for the Russian team.

How deep can you dive—skin diving, that is?

I can dive ninety feet, stalking a fish, and bring the catch back to the surface. But the average depth of a good spearfisherman is 60 feet.

What do you think of this competition, and the divers of other countries whom you see here?

I am tremendously impressed by the way Portugal has organized this competition, and the high performance of the divers.

Besides spearfishing, what about the rest of underwater activities in Russia—exploring, archaeology, photography?

As I said, we have only just begun diving. But we have some photographers already, and there is great interest in progressing into other fields, and I am sure we will quickly catch up.

Do you have any magazine covering underwater activities?

We have a monthly magazine, edited by the Central Sea Club, called "The Sea," which has an underwater section. But we hope to publish a magazine devoted only to underwater activities in the future. Mr. Stortchienko was quite impressed by the *Skin Diver*, and we had a hell of a time translating it from English to Spanish to Russian—I must confess that it was the first time I had ever read the magazine from cover to cover, including all the advertising.

What type of equipment do you use? Is it expensive?

We have four types of guns—three look like your arbaletes, and one like your Cressi gun. The arbaletes are



Gustav Dalla Valle (center) compares interview notes with translator Masukevitch (left). All of the statements had to be taken from Russian to Spanish, and then to English. On the right is Pavel Stortchienko who is the Technical Director of the Central Sea Club in Moscow. Photo by Roger Foucher-Creleau.

more popular than the spring gun. The price of the arbaletes is about eight dollars. We have six types of masks, comparable to the French masks, which sell for about a dollar and a half. We have four types of fins, one like the Cressi fin and the rest straight, with a strap around the heel. They cost about three dollars. There are several types of snorkels, costing about fifty cents—all with the pingpong valve system. There is a self-contained breathing apparatus, a two-stage, which is an improvement on the French Aqualung. It sells for about sixty dollars, with bottle. This equipment, like all products in Russia, are manufactured by the State. Approximately two-thirds of the equipment is sold to members of the club at a cheaper price; the rest is sold through sporting goods stores. This year about fifty thousand pair of fins were sold, and we plan to manufacture 200,000 pair next year. Mr. Stortchienko had his diving equipment with him. The mask and fins did not appear very different from our drugstore types, and the snorkel—the drugstore ping-pong type—I pointed out to him that nobody uses anymore. The next day I noticed that his snorkel had been altered—no more pingpong ball.

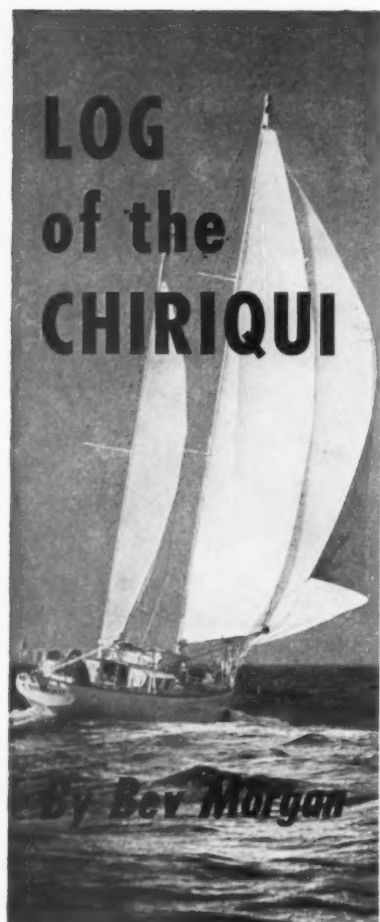
Do you have any organized competitions?

We started this year for the first time. Our competition is different from yours. We have three days of competition, with three different tests. The first day is the orientation test. A specific area is chosen for the test, and in this area

a marker is placed underwater. A map is made of the area, showing the marker and specifying the exact latitude and longitude, depth, and all pertinent information. The divers are equipped with scuba, compasses, and waterproof copies of the map. The competitors are timed, and receive points according to the time it takes each one to find the marker. The second day we have the endurance test, consisting of three parts—one, to swim a mile on the surface, with full equipment of mask, fins, snorkel, and gun—two, a depth contest, with full skin diving equipment, and—three, an underwater distance contest, regardless of time. The third day (finally) there is the spearfishing contest. It is four hours long, and is quite the same as your competitions. Of course the winner is the competitor who accumulates the most points in all three days. Mr. Stortchienko tried to persuade me that all spearfishing competitions should be conducted like theirs, but I explained that though I thought it was interesting, I thought that their first test had nothing to do with spearfishing, and the second is the same as the third test, because the best spearfishermen are the ones who dive the deepest and swim best underwater.

What chance do we have of seeing the Russian team in future International Competitions?

A very good chance. We expect to be at Malta next year—and I hope we will have the chance to compete with American team.



The story thus far: Seven divers are voyaging along the Pacific Coast of Mexico, bound for the Islands in the South Pacific. Last month they dived for turtles in the Sea of Cortez. Then, they encountered sharks, porpoise, and tuna swimming together. Crossing this sea, they anchored at Balileto Bay in the Tres Marias Islands.

"TRES MARIAS ISLANDS"

"Log of the Chiriqui" will be featured each month as the ocean yacht sails to new diving areas in the Pacific . . .

OUR 14 ft. diving launch went over the side, swinging from the main halyard. We all started ashore, with the exception of the cook of the day, Ramsey Parks. As the outboard pushed us toward the beach, I took in the sight of the island. Brown hills formed the backdrop for a small green area which was perhaps two miles in depth and length. A row of palm trees along the edge of this marked the boundries of the town.

Plazi Miller and Lowell Thompson had been here before, so they explained the prison colony to us as we neared the beach. The prisoners were not placed in cells, but rather were allowed to build or buy houses in this settlement. In spite of the fact that the entire island was a Mexican Federal Prison, the only thing that resembled a prison was the soldier's armory at the far end of town. The island is inhabited, the prisoners being allowed to bring their families and friends to live with them. A few women convicts are also sent here. They have schools, markets, a library, a machine shop, and everything a normal community would possess. The prisoners work at the same trades as they had on the outside. The thing that amused me was that the prisoners and guards played against each other in all types of sports events, such as baseball, basketball, and their most competitive sport, boxing. Needless to say, the rivalry was very strong.

After the usual formalities with the port captain, and a short look about town, we returned to the boat. Our diving equipment was broken out, and most of the crew hit the water. The water temperature was 87 degrees on the surface and a comfortable 75 about ten feet down. Lowell and I swam along the bottom at thirty feet, photographing occasionally as an odd looking fish would swim by. I found the bottom rather dull and uninteresting compared to California. However, the strange sea life swimming about us seemed to be trying to make up for this in their brightness of colors. Visibility was down to thirty feet now and I noticed a stirring of the silt on the bottom, indicating that the surface was becoming rough with an afternoon wind. We secured our diving for the day.

Later in the week Ron Church found a "cleaning station". Our friend, Conrad Limbaugh, of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, had explained what these were. Parasites and other small growths collect on fish. In order to rid themselves of these, the fish allow other small fish (known as "Cleaners") to eat the unwanted collection off their bodies. This cleaning seems to exist everywhere under the sea, but sometimes it is difficult to understand what is seen. The "station" Ron had found consisted of a small pair of butterfly fish which served as cleaners for a large school of goat fish. The goat fish swim up to the cleaners and change color from yellow to purple. At this signal, the butterfly fish dash about, picking them clean. After photographing their actions we continued our search for more unusual underwater activity.

Ron, Plazi, and Lowell were out in the diving launch searching one day, when they came upon a huge Manta Ray. It was larger than their 14 ft. boat. As they came near the ray, it suddenly changed directions and ran under the boat. The outboard propeller struck the beast across the back, inflicting several gashes, and stalling the motor. In a great anger, the ray turned under the boat once again and began to beat the sides with his wings. The crew in the boat received a good shaking before they could get the engine started and outrun the manta. They said that at the time it seemed the boat was being broken.

On the way back to the Chiriqui they stopped for a quick look at the point of a small bay. This was our first shark encounter. All three, Ron, Plazi, and Lowell entered the water. It was a sand bottom that sloped gently to about 30 ft., then dropped off sharply to blue water. They were all skin diving, no scuba. Plazi borrowed Ron's gun and speared a fish, but it slipped off the barb and swam away. He returned the unloaded gun to Ron. As Ron loaded the gun a white tip shark about 6 feet in length swam in and circled, then disappeared. Then three sharks came up from the deep water, swimming slowly. Two slightly smaller ones were following one of about eight feet in

length. Following a direct course, the three swam directly at Ron. When only a few feet away and still not reducing speed, the divers became concerned. Lowell started for the boat and Plazi and Ron both took cover behind Ron's gun, which Ron was still holding, now loaded. The big shark hesitated, then came in as if to attack. Ron leveled his gun, ready to fire. He was about to pull the trigger from a four or five foot range when the beast veered off. As the shark backed off and began to mill about, the two divers swam backwards, wishing for an extra set of eyes, until they scrambled onto the beach.

The next encounter was later in the afternoon. Dean Holt, Lowell's brother, had flown down to dive with us. He and Lowell were at another location, and again, no scubas were being used. Dean speared a pargo and threw it into the boat. He and Lowell were lying on the surface of the water, Dean loading the gun. A large, grey colored shark with a huge head (probably a great white shark) of about 10 ft. in length, came gliding in. After a few passes, it came directly at the divers. Dean held the half loaded rubber powered gun at arm's length. Changing directions slightly, the shark started to pass, then suddenly the beast twisted and bit down on the end of the gun. The cocked rubbers snapped apart in his teeth, and he swam away. The divers had yelled for the boat and it was now over them, so they jumped out of the water as the shark started another pass.

Another day, three of us were in the water with lungs. We were looking for sharks, and I had a camera to record any encounter. I backed into a large overhanging rock and signaled for the other two divers to spear a fish. One of them did and there were the sharks. Four slim beauties with white tips on their fins and tails. The speared fish struggled on the end of the line about twenty feet away, but the sharks would not approach. We put the fish in the boat, and swam about together, but the sharks kept their distance. I swam away from the other two men, and once again placed my back to the rocks, holding my breath to prevent bubbles. One of the white tips came in at me, as I started the movie camera. When he filled the viewfinder completely I could not stand the tension, any longer. I looked over the camera breathing out a great quantity of bubbles. He changed directions, going over me about three feet. For the rest of the dive, the sharks would not come any closer than the wide circle.

We were at Tres Marias seven weeks and had many more encounters. Each dive drew the presence of at least one shark.

WHAT! MORE EAR TROUBLE

By SPUD SCHULTZ

In recent issues of the "Skin Diver" there have been stated problems concerning the ears, such as pain and deafness. This article is not written to help those now in misery, but to throw a little light on the causes of these and their prevention.

The middle ear and its connecting canal is the area with which we are concerned. It is the cavity or space located inside the ear drum (see fig. I). It is filled with air that is channeled to it from the nasopharynx (the back of the nose cavity) through the eustachian tube (fig. II). It contains three movable bones known as the hammer, anvil and stirrup that are connected in series. These connect to the ear drum to the inner ear. They serve to convey vibrations from the ear drum to the inner ear (see fig. III).

When diving with scuba the increased pressure of the water is equalized by keeping the air inside the chest and body spaces at the same pressure as the water outside; this equalized pressure is also transmitted to the mouth and nose. When the eustachian tube is completely clear the ear, the middle ear and ear drum, will adjust immediately to changes in pressure. It's only when the

tube is blocked or partially blocked with mucus that trouble comes.

Ear trouble caused by a blocked eustachian tube can take two courses, both have different results. First, if the eustachian tube is occluded and will not allow air to pass as the diver descends into the depths, the excess pressure on the outside of the ear drum will cause it to bulge inward pressing hard against the hammer (bone) in fig. III. This causes the pain every diver has experienced when he is unable to clear his ears. The second type is also caused by a blocked eustachian tube, but after the mucus is forced upward in the tube by the greater pressure below and becomes firmly fixed in the canal. Occasionally, upon surfacing the mucus has become so firmly lodged that expanding air pressure cannot be released. This greater pressure in the middle ear than outside causes the ear drum to bulge outward as illustrated below (fig. IV).

The greatest danger resulting from either type of bulging is rupture of the ear drum. Rupture can ultimately result in sufficient damage to cause ringing in the ears, infection and deafness.

There are preventative measures that can be taken to lessen the danger of ear trouble. First one should never dive with a cold. With a cold much more mucus is formed, greatly increasing the hazard of a blocked eustachian tube.

The second point is never force excessively to clear the ears. If on a dive one has great difficulty clearing them, surface and clear the ears several times and try diving again. It usually works to clear the eustachian tube, repeat again if it's still necessary. Practice at clearing the ears is helpful in preventing trouble.

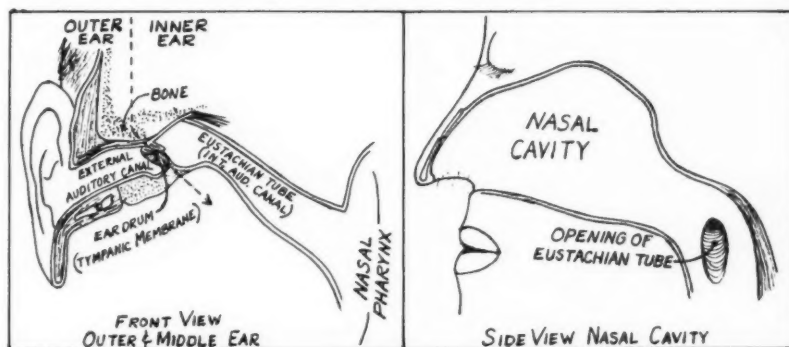


Fig. I

Fig. II



Fig. III

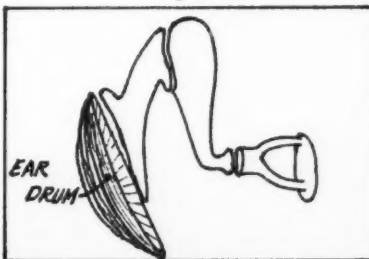


Fig. IV

New York
Dealer Sets Up . . .

CONFIDENCE TRAINING TANK

By Richard Crosby

Free show! Newest roadside attraction proves better than television. Tank has vertical descending steel ladder inside.



Introducing the novice air-breather into the realm of the undersea calls for a carefully chosen method of launching. The instructor must have at his disposal a facility best chosen for the psychological transition that takes place in the student's mind of learning to breathe and behave with equal ease underwater. A full understanding on the part of the teacher is a must, as to how the student accepts the idea of trusting in himself and his new status of amphibianism by becoming a parasite to an air tank. Already his mind is cluttered with doubts and the challenge of totally new sensations now encountered. At this critical stage the instructor would do well to avoid the ocean with its sea life and currents. A diving tank offers the perfect answer; deep enough to pop ears several times, yet confined enough to stress the procedure of going down and not necessarily roaming around just yet. Such was the design philosophy of a tank erected this past summer in Freeport, Long Island, New York. Since it proved to be a very successful procedure, I have written this report in effort to offer it as a helpful suggestion to all readers.

Investing some thousand dollars in the idea, Bill Hartig, a vigorous and successful Johnson Outboard dealer who started only as an avid diving enthusiast, took on skin diving equipment sales as a mere sideline. In association with an amazing technician named Bob Clarke, the sideline turned into a most enviable attraction along Freeport's waterfront center situated on busy Woodcleft Avenue.

A huge black cylinder rolled off a trailer truck one hot day in June and a crane stood it upright. Welders jokingly labeled it "Sputnik No. 9", for surely it then resembled the fat first stage of a giant moon rocket. It was indeed an odd sight, and telling the passerby that it was a diving tank was meaningless as he'd point to the canal scarcely a hundred feet away across the street and ask why the tank if there was so much water available nearby. After that no explanations were given, instead Bob Clarke painted a giant question mark on the tank's side symbolizing public bafflement perfectly. As Bob painted the steel cylinder suggestions came from all directions as to what on earth it was: a ticket booth

perhaps, and aquarium maybe, or some frankfurter stand, or a surplus Army portable pillbox for battle-shy Generals to observe front-line fightings?

Its light green interior gave the crystal clear water a shimmering tropical quality as it poured in. Through thick plate glass could be seen dancing silver fingers of sunlight in the outdoor brightness of a new summer. "This pot calls for a king-sized tea bag," said Bob, and all hands anxiously awaited to manifest it. After its 2600 gallons swirled to a settlement, it offered a depth of 12 feet 8 inches from the ripples of its surface to the thick steel plate of the bottom. It spanned about six feet in diameter. On top a crown-like railing topped its massive wooden hexagonal platform, under which the tank terminated with an inner lip to minimize topside splashing. Designer Clarke beamed with pride and managed to be first man in.

With such a sizable investment one would suppose that Bill Hartig could rightfully expect a financial return towards the outlay. Students are surprised to hear that a course in confidence would cost them only ten dollars,

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half of which returnable towards the purchase of equipment later on. This involves private tutoring by a diving instructor and up to six tank hours diving time, equipment supplied. The instructor alone will decide when the student is ready for final ocean diving. Then the student is taken out in a boat out in a bay and dives with the instructor trailing behind out of sight studying his movements.

The importance of such a tank used in training cannot be overated. Being a tall structure it takes up minimum floor space. The platform on top is very handy for student-instructor conferences and equipment layout. When its outside ladder is removed, there is no danger of some wandering child falling in and drowning himself after hours if the tank is kept outdoors. At this writing, however, Mr. Hartig plans to move the tank indoors for wintertime



Using modified hookah unit, eliminating bulk of air tank, pretty Linda Doughton smiles at onlookers from the interior of the Confidence Tank. The glass plates are held in place by water pressure alone, against caulked steel frame.

training in heated water. The tank is also handy for testing underwater camera cases if such a depth is found adequate. A steel ladder is permanently bolted inside the tank of the center-column design with rungs outboard to facilitate climbing with fins on. Six windows are installed chest-high to the outside viewer, so children can watch the bubbling show inside. These windows also provide a feeling of closeness to loved ones and friends to the diver. When the student diver descends to the bottom, instead of feeling far away from all familiar things, he finds himself at the same time close to people outside thereby inviting a tendency to stay down; that all is well. This is perhaps the greatest single advantage of the tank. In the first three months it incubated almost 100 new divers.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dear Fellow Diver:

It is an old maxim that in unity there is strength. Working upon this precept, the Northeast Council of Skin Diving Clubs, Inc., has undertaken the sponsorship of the first Annual National Convention of Skin Divers. This convention will be held at the Bradford Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts, on February 21 and 22, 1959.

We sincerely feel that there is a need for unity in our sport. In some sections of our country skin divers are faced with a great deal of misunderstanding about them and their sport. We feel, too, that resolutions should be passed for greater safety measures for skin divers. We do not wish to have our sport faced with the question, "Is skin diving as safe a sport as it should be?"

We should like to see the formation of a National Organization of Skin Divers, with National Officers and an annual convention.

Therefore, the Northeast Council solicits your support and asks that you consider the following:

1. Your presence at the Convention in February is of prime importance to you and of vital necessity to the formation of a strong National Organization.
2. As a delegate, you are asked to attend with an open mind to help elect as National Officers those who you feel would best serve you as an individual and as a participant in one of this country's fastest growing sports.
3. We urge Councils throughout the United States and Canada to submit candidates for office.
4. We shall welcome your suggestions for proposed business for our agenda.
5. We want every diver as a delegate. More than that, we ask you to be a salesman and help to promote your Convention.

For further information, we suggest that you contact our Registration, Information and Credentials Committee: Bay State Aqua Club, Co-Chairman Gerald Comeau, 6 Minot Street, Stoneham 80, Massachusetts.

Your Convention Committee is working tirelessly and enthusiastically to make this, the first annual National Convention of Skin Divers a great success. Please do your part, and don't let us down.

With best wishes for a successful Convention, and in the pleasant anticipation of greeting you as a delegate in Boston on February 21 and 22, I am

Sincerely yours,
Richard D. Myers
General Chairman

FIRST ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF SKIN DIVERS



"Hey! Why don't you look where you're going?"



Brad W. Luther, Jr., covets his recently received award presented to him by the Bay State Aqua Club for "Outstanding Contribution to the Sport of Skin Diving."

BRAD LUTHER HONORED

By GERALD F. COMEAU

During the past few years the Bay State Aqua Club of Stoneham, Massachusetts has attended practically every important skin diving function at which an award or trophy was presented to a particular individual. Without exception, these awards always went to divers who had accomplished spectacular, dangerous, or otherwise impressive feats. Not once has the modest, unassuming skin diver who has contributed hundreds of hours of time and hard work to the unselfish promotion of skin diving ever received official recognition for his troubles.

The Bay State Aqua Club has decided to change this present condition. This organization voted to award a trophy each year at our annual club banquet to the diver whom we feel has made the greatest contribution to the sport in

a non-profession and non-commercial capacity.

We are aware of many good divers in our area who have made impressive contributions to the advancement of the sport, but have always done so because of the material gains realized. These contributions, although worthy, are not being made for a sincere love of the sport, for the sport, but actually for the resultant publicity which is good for business.

Our next step was to set up a system of selecting the recipient of this award. It was agreed that the club body would submit the names of three (3) nominees, and the Board of Directors would make the final selection.

The rules governing the nominations were simple and quite adequate.

The three nominees selected for this

award were John Whelan, Richard D. Myers, and Brad W. Luther, Jr.

Mr. Whelan's nomination was based on his work for the Northeast Council, and also for his contribution of the first practical Tournament System ever to be used in council competition.

Mr. Myers was nominated in view of his Herculean task of restoring to the Northeast Council its self respect and prestige in the short period of one year. Also, Mr. Myers is directly responsible for making the Northeast Council one of the Country's strongest.

Mr. Luther's nomination was based on his numerous contributions to the sport, and his unselfish devotion to the promotion of the sport.

At the September meeting of the club, Mr. Brad W. Luther, Jr. was the unanimous choice to receive this award. Some of the points made to support this choice are as follows: Brad has donated of his time and equipment to various Council projects and tournaments unconditionally, which has, at times, meant a personal sacrifice on his part. Four times, in 15 days, Brad made the 130 mile round trip from his home to Boston to assist this club in preparing his tank for a demonstration at the 1958 Sportsmen's Show. (This tank was loaned to us at no charge by Brad.)

Brad has taken numerous groups of divers in search of wrecks off Cape Cod, with him supplying his boats, time, and gas at no charge. Brad has lost much time from work during the recent summer season due to underwater body recoveries in which he supplied the air, and all necessary equipment free of charge. (During a short period of a few weeks, Brad recovered eight bodies, and donated \$200.00 worth of air during the search). Each year Brad holds a skin diving demonstration and lectures for the V. A. Hospitals in his area.

Brad is presently serving as Executive Secretary for the Northeast Council; President of the Fairhaven Whalers Skin Diving Club; Cape Cod area Director for the Northeast Council; Author of "Northeast Notes" which appears each month in Skin Diver Magazine; member of the Executive Committee for the first annual National Skin Diver's Convention and lastly, Chairman of the Public Relations Committee for the Skin Diver's Convention.

If you multiply the preceding information by 5, you will just about cover all the activities of this terrific guy.

Brad has exhibited time and again his willingness to help any individual, club or Association in any way he can.

To us, the members of the Bay State Aqua Club, our friendship with a man of Brad's stature, character, and concern for the rights of others, shall always be a cherished thing. 🐟

Twenty-three countries attend . . .

SIXTH CONGRESS OF THE CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA PECHE SPORTIVE

REPORT FURNISHED BY GUSTAV DALLA VALLE

The sixth Congress of the Confederation Internationale de la Pêche Sportive met at Brussels, Belgium, on September 26, 1958. The C.I.P.S. is an international organization which coordinates fishing regulations in all the participating countries, promotes the repopulation of fish, and organizes fishing competitions. The Confederation is divided into three committees which represent deep sea fishing, casting, and spearfishing. Twenty-three countries participated in this year's congress. The Spearfishing Committee, under the presidency of Mr. Luigi Ferraro, was represented by France, Italy, Monaco, U.S.A., Belgium, Brazil, Portugal, Greece, East Germany, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia. Absent this year were England, Malta, Morocco, and Libya.

This year the Spearfishing Committee

confronted a situation which has built up during the last few years and become so important that it can no longer be ignored. In several countries—East Germany, West Germany, Belgium, Holland, England, Switzerland, Austria, Finland, and Poland—because of their geographical location, spearfishing has not developed as well as scuba diving, archaeology, exploration, photography, and biological studies. The majority of these countries are not members of the C.I.P.S. The underwater activities in these countries have been organized into Federations, and it was inevitable that the members would eventually create another international confederation of underwater activities.

The C.I.P.S. is concerned with only the sport of spearfishing. But spearfishing was the origin of all underwater

activities, and all delegates agreed on one thing,—that all underwater activities, including spearfishing, should be united, and we should try absolutely to prevent any division.

It was the opinion of part of the Committee that we should intergrade the other underwater activities into the C.I.P.S., as it is already an established international organization. The dissenting group opposed the intergradation because they felt that scuba diving, archaeology, etc., have little to do with the purpose of the C.I.P.S. Finally the motion was passed, with unanimous agreement, that in the consideration of creating a CONFEDERATION DES ACTIVITES SUBAQUATIQUES (International Confederation of underwater activities) that will unite all branches of activities, a committee was nominated to study the constitution, financial organization, and all problems pertinent to such a confederation. This committee will present its conclusions to all Federations, members of the C.I.P.S. or not, before the end of the year. About the 15th of January, 1959, there will be an international congress at Monaco, with the participation of all countries concerned, and at that time it will be decided if we will remain in the C.I.P.S. or if we will form a new confederation. The following committee was chosen: Mr. Ferraro, president of the Spearfishing Committee of the C.I.P.S., Mr. Ferrat, the delegate from France, Mr. Onda, the delegate from Monaco, Mr. Manstretta, the delegate from Italy, and Mr. Dalla Valle, the delegate from U.S.A. In the event that the new confederation is formed, the delegates, desiring to remain in cordial report with the C.I.P.S., express the wish that the World Spearfishing Championship will continue to be held under the patronage of the C.I.P.S., which has given it its present prestige.

Besides this major decision, three more motions were passed at the Congress. The number of athletes representing each country at the World Spearfishing Championships, was reduced from six to four members. We passed the request of Malta, to organize the 1959 World Championship in that country, and the request of Italy, to hold the Championship in Italy in 1960. Brazil and Greece requested the Championship for 1961, which will be decided next year. Finally, an Olympic Committee was elected, with the following members—Mr. Hool, president of the C.I.P.S., Mr. Ferrat, the delegate from France, Mr. Manstretta, the delegate from Italy, and Mr. Dalla Valle, the delegate from U.S.A., with the purpose of advancing the project to have spearfishing accepted as an Olympic sport. »



Delegates to the Congress included, (l-r) Mr. Onda from Monaco, Mr. Albuquerque from Portugal, Mr. Dalla Valle from the United States, Mr. Ferraro, President of the Spearfishing Committee and Mr. Ferrat from France.



SHARK AHOY!

BY JIM THORNE

THERE had been a wicked electrical storm blowing most of the time as we crossed the Gulf Stream. Our metal outriggers lit up like a neon sign on Broadway. Our antenna looked like white hot metal. The waves were washing over the forward deck. It was three o'clock in the morning July 10, and, all in all, we were having some pretty bad moments.

We had started from Captain Hugh Brown's docks at Snake Creek in the Florida Keys aboard the Reef Corsair at about midnight. We had just begun a week's cruise, complete with underwater camera and several thousand feet of film. We had a definite mission. We were going to prove on film that shark and barracuda would not attack brightly colored objects. We also wanted to do some research on the deep water species of shark as compared to the shallow water variety. The theory has been that the deep water variety were more aggressive and of a completely different temperament. If we could come up with some right answers, perhaps we would be contributing a little bit toward eliminating panic in the water and thus save lives.

Our company, ADVENTURE INC., had just finished the job of technical direction of an underwater movie entitled "Secret Cargo" for Hiram Walker. Wilding Pictures of Chicago were the producers. We had some time on our hands and a little money to spend. My partner, Jack DeSort and I, decided to invest the time and money doing the shark research and attempt to broaden the field of skin and scuba diving.

So, finding ourselves on a storm tossed Gulf Stream was of our own doing, and we had no complaints. . . . We tossed about like a wounded fish for eight hours and dawn found us in the Cay Sal Bank, deep in the Bahamas. A light house came into view. We checked our chart and discovered it to be North Elbow Light, a light built before the Civil War years by prison labor and then abandoned. It figured. A ghost island guarded by a ghost light.

There was no damage to the boat. We had put into one of the natural coves and had given the sturdy Reef Corsair a good going over. Actually the situation wasn't bad at all. We were in an area where there were known to be plenty of shark and 'cudas, and were close to a

drop off that went from 100 feet to about 14,000. We decided to stay and do the job right here.

Early the next morning Hugh Brown and I went in and speared some dainty morsels to tempt the palate of some ocean going shark. First, I speared a nice big sting ray and Hugh came back with a grouper and a mutton snapper. We cut up the ray and strung everything on a line attached to individual leaders and hooks. The boat was anchored in about 100 feet of water. About 25 feet off our stern was a drop off that went down thousands of feet. There was a very strong current running below in the direction of the drop off. That had one advantage. We could tie our bait line at the bottom of the anchor line and it would take the bait and suspend it right over the drop off. However, with the current running that strong, there could be no free swimming. We had to hang onto the line. If we were swept off, we were goners for sure. Nobody would ever find us.

We decided to try the color test. I put on fins which had been painted a bright red, yellow Japanese socks, Scotch plaid trunks, bright yellow gloves and an orange colored underwater camera housing. Captain Brown and I went down. Some sharks came in out of that deep blue water, but they stayed off in the distance. I slid down the bait line and gutted one of the bigger fish, then I pulled myself back through the current. It was a slow hand over hand process and I didn't even dare look back to see if any sharks were closing in to take a nip at my heels. I finally reached Brown's position and saw that he was giving me some very definite shark signals. I grabbed the anchor line and turned around. There they were. Four black tip and they had begun to circle the bait. With Captain Brown right behind me, I headed back to within fifteen or twenty feet of the bait and let them see all the bright pretty colors.



The Reef Corsair puts into safe harbor after storm at sea at North Elbow Light in the Bahamas. Gin clear water in this area was right for the shark research.

They just kept circling and paid no attention to me. This went on for about ten minutes, then finally a real monster came up from the deep water. He was a Mako and he didn't take much time. He looked at me, looked at the bait, then headed in and grabbed a big bite of the ray. Big as he was, he couldn't cleave through that ray "like butter". He bit down, then shook hard like a Terrier with a bone. He made off with a big piece and that seemed to be the signal for the others to come to the party. They all came in for their share. We just stayed there and watched as they daintily munched the lunch we had set for them. Incidentally, the shark hooks didn't seem to bother them.

The next day was shallow water day for us, so we repeated the same experiment in about thirty feet of that wonderful clear blue Bahama water. This time we put another cut up ray right on the bottom. After quite some time four graceful, sleek black tips started to circle. They were very cautious. Every



Capt. Hugh Brown and Jim Thorne watch the time that the shark bait has been down before submerging to observe the animal's antics.

time a surge moved the bait, they disappeared. After a few minutes they came back. It was almost half an hour before one of them moved in and took a bite. At that moment I went down and pricked him with a light spear. It stuck for a few seconds, then he shrugged it off, which is exactly what we wanted. . . . The result? An angry shark beat a hasty retreat.

The next method of exciting shark was to tail spear grouper and snapper. We tail speared them because it left the fish alive and they pounded frantically on the bottom. Within a few seconds a lone shark cruised into the area obviously excited and searching. We let him take the bait. We tried the same experiment several times. It never failed to produce a shark in remarkably quick time. A wounded fish sends out the kind of erratic vibrations that always seem to excite shark. Water is 900 times more dense than air. These vibrations seem to carry some distance in the water and are picked up by the shark's sensitive radar system.



BOOK REVIEW

THE COMPLETE MANUAL OF FREE DIVING—By Philippe Tailliez, Frederic Dumas, Jacques-Yves Cousteau, and others

The Complete Manual of Free Diving is the latest edition of *La Plongée*, prepared by the Undersea Research and Development Group of the French Navy (*Groupe d'Etudes et de Recherches Sous-Marine*). The founders Philippe Tailliez, Frederic Dumas and Jacques-Yves Cousteau are the most experienced free divers in the world. Their revolutionary compressed-air lung has opened the present age of undersea exploration and skin diving. They and their colleagues have been constantly experimenting in the sea and laboratory with free-diving physiology

Next time we decided to sink a spear in deep—make the shark struggle to get loose. After a bit of searching, Brown and I spied a big sand shark cruising below us. Wham! The spear went home and we had an exciting fight on our hands. Finally he pulled himself off the spear and with a flick of his tail was gone. . . .

The barracuda story was much the same. We tantalized them with speared fish, red fins, bright pieces of metal and chased them until they gnashed their teeth and turned a dull metal gray. . . . The result? Well, my red fins are still unscathed.

We have recorded all these experiments on motion picture film. We don't pretend to have all the answers, but we hope that we have pushed back the veil of ignorance just a little bit.

since 1945. It is not surprising that their diving data are the most careful and trustworthy and that their manual is the basic one.

The main departure of the work was a study of two new factors created by the Aqua-Lung. The device liberated divers into space. Men swam freely and quickly into depths, the Aqualunger could safely make three descents a day to critical depths where the helmet man was limited to one. Lieutenant de Vaisseau Jean Alinat therefore compiled the first tables for three progressive dives in a single day, accounting for accumulated nitrogen effects and the necessary stage decompression. The charts are included in the book.

The G.E.R.S. team brought to the fore another poorly understood nitrogen disease not related to "the bends," that of nitrogen narcosis, or as they called it, "rapture of the great depths." The deliberate penetration of the zone of rapture to 297 feet by five members of the group brought much evidence for further work in the pressure chambers, and established the absolute limit of compressed-air diving. That the team also broke the world's depth record on compressed air was unimportant to them; they were after knowledge. Their results have added to the vast work on pressure physiology by Paul Bert in 1879 and the applied experimentation on diving by the Haldanes, Damant, Boycott, Hill, Priestley, and Behnke.

G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, \$4.00



Frogmen at the Renton, Washington, Boeing plant are (l-r) Al Weeks, David Cronk, Clark Wheaton, Bob Crouse, Joe Dollinger, Anthony Nathe, Arden Gordon and Charles Borer. The giant Boeing KC-135 in the background is being prepared for the hydro-test.

FROGMEN IN INDUSTRY

Skin diving has entered a new field; namely, that of aviation. This may seem strange but skin divers are now hard at work testing an airplane fuselage—which happens to be underwater. This testing is being done at the Boeing Airplane Company in Seattle, Washington, and the testing covers finer details than in actual flight. The flight simulation is all under automatic control and recorded so as to make no mistake as every inch of surface of the fuselage is tested.

The purpose of the actual testing underwater is to simulate high altitude flying, to register pressure changes the fuselage would undergo through hundreds of flights, and to simulate gust conditions through hydraulically applied loads to the fuselage. The fuselage will go through a series of simulated shakedown flights through the use of regulated water pressure. It will go through a complete ground-to-air flight in only five minutes. Wind-gust-like pockets of turbulent air will be simulated through a mechanical combination of jacks and ballasts designed to

rock the plane's body up and down and left and right and give it the roll effect of actual flight many thousands of feet up.

The divers assigned to this project have been trained under Boeing supervision. Joe Dollinger, an expert diver, instructed these men. Members of the actual test team are as follows: Hal Weeks, a project-assigned engineer; David Cronk, assigned draftsman or engineer's aide; Bob Crouse, assigned underwater motion picture photographer;

Anthony J. Nathe who was a former tool fabricator mechanic and an experienced lung diver before assignment to this job as test mechanic; Clark Wheaton, also an experienced diver and a former A&E flight line mechanic at Boeing field, assigned test mechanic; Gordon Arden, a former riveter, now test mechanic; and Chuck Borer assigned as mechanic; Henry Golden and Bill Mulby, also hydrostatic test mechanics.

All Boeing divers have successfully completed a two week course certified by Boeing. The course included some class-room work but most of the training was underwater. This training consisted of learning the fundamentals of skin diving—such as, clearing your mask, the use of fins, distance swimming, the use of the Aqua-Lung, and safety procedures—including the buddy system, underwater buddy breathing, artificial respiration and life saving. The course was especially set up in order to train the frogmen to work in dark areas and in small, congested places. For this purpose a tube was sunk in Lake Washington in 20 feet of water. This tube was approximately six feet wide by 12 feet long and had a 36 inch swimming clearance. The diver had to go down inside this tube and had to swim from one end to the other. At this point the diver, using a light, had to open a combination padlock, then swim back to the point of entry and from there to the surface.

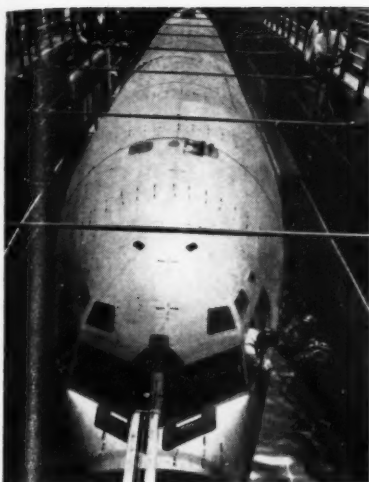
The test project is carried on in a huge tank in which the plane fuselage is cradled. The tank stands above the ground 20 feet, and is 130 feet long and 20 feet wide approximately. The capacity of the tank is 420,000 gallons of water, which takes approximately six hours to fill and 5 hours to drain. The jig structure inside the tank, which cradles the 50,000 pound fuselage consists of 55 tons of structural steel. There are 300,000 feet of wiring inside the fuselage. There are also twenty hydraulic jacks to rock the plane during simulation flight. The tank has eight twelve-inch portholes to give more light underwater, and also has eight underwater flood lights to help during the night diving.

The divers' work consists of opening and closing all doors in the fuselage, checking all hydraulic lines that lead into the tank and to the jacks, inspecting the test check areas, measuring jack deflection underwater and handling all other underwater details.

The most dangerous spot for diving in the hydrostatic tank is inside the fuselage. The frogmen enter the crew entry door and swim to the tail end, approximately 75 feet, with only a 36 inch clearance. Inside it is very dark with only a little light peeking in here

By A. J. NATHE

The writer is a diver with the "Nor-West Divers Club" who go out in search for underwater wrecks. They take underwater motion and still photography and record all valuable information of the wrecks they find in the Puget Sound Area. He spends his working hours, diving with the Boeing Airplane Company and his free time out in Puget Sound with the Nor-West Divers.



The Boeing KC-135 is shown in the tank with the water slowly rising around the fuselage.

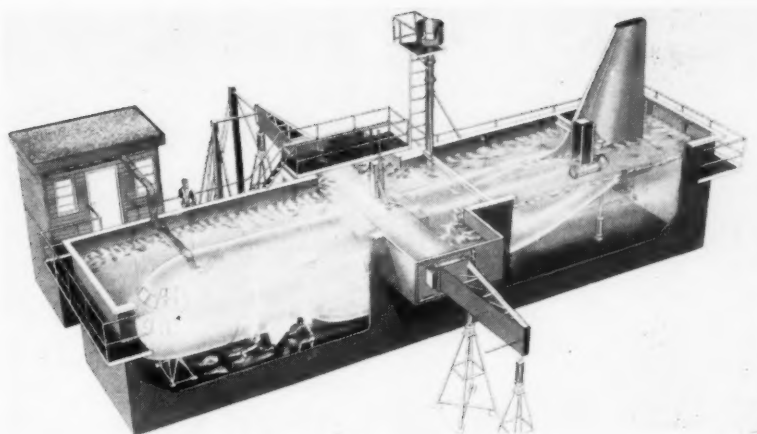


Fully submerged in the 20 x 20 x 130 foot tank the aircraft is given a final check by the divers before the test operations begin. Photos by Boeing Airplane Company.

and there through the small windows. Each diver carries a flashlight to aid him on his way. Once on the way there is hardly any chance of turning back until you have reached the tail end where there is ample room to turn around, and then head back toward the nose section which contains the only place of entrance or exit in the fuselage.

When making a dive into the tank only the sound of the regulator on the diving apparatus can be heard as the diver descends into the silent water. Then the ghostly figure of the plane fuselage appears below, and the diver feels as if he is entering another world where man is an alien.

Skin diving, which has long been a popular sport, has now become an important scientific aid in the aviation field and we hope that soon new jobs will open in industry for skin divers.



DIVERS AID AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY TESTS

By Gene D. Vezzani

With the invention of the Scuba, man's physical limitations were extended to the exploration of the once mysterious depths of the oceans and seas. Once the dream world of fiction writers such as Jules Verne, these waters have become the playground and workshop of the everyday man and woman. Undersea search for oil and other precious minerals as well as metals is an everyday occurrence. Findings of ancient sunken wrecks of historical significance are being reported by the newspapers every so often.

Man's introduction to the ichthyological, biological, medical and technical phases of skin diving with the use of Scuba have placed a demand on industry for a new type of technician. Recently the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation (Marietta, Georgia Division) revolutionized the method of testing pressurized aircraft. Previously this was done by subjecting a grounded aircraft to the interior cabin pressures encountered at high altitudes by pumping compressed air into the grounded aircraft's cabin, thereby simulating actual conditions of high altitude flight. The major problem encountered by this method of ground tests was the extreme danger to personnel caused by occasional explosions of the aircraft structure due to the high volumes of compressed air needed to perform these tests. These tests were necessary prior to the actual airborne flight with the cabin pressurized in order that an aircraft in flight under similar pressure conditions would be safe for passengers and crew.

In order to combat this problem, Lockheed's staff of engineers developed

a new method of performing these complex tests by submerging an aircraft in water. This method is now referred to as the Hydrostatic System of structural tests of pressurized cabins. The aircraft is submerged in a tank approximately 25 feet in depth and 100 feet in length. The sealed cabin of the aircraft is then pressurized with water rather than with air, greatly reducing structural damages as previously encountered under the old method. With the assistance of the Scuba equipped divers, this Hydrostatic method of testing has greatly facilitated matters in terms of time and expenditure.

The photograph and artists conception appearing with this article shows two diver employees, G. H. Christiansen, Director, Georgia State Skin Diving Association, and President of the Atlanta Skin Divers Club and John L. Peters, inspecting pressure leaks on the forward cargo hatch of the new Lockheed C-130A Turbo-prop airplane.





Key West diver Ed Ciesinski with a small cannon brought up from a sunken galleon off the Dry Tortugas.

SHIPWRECK OFF THE DRY TORTUGAS

A Bill Burrud T.V. "Treasure" crew headed by Producer Gene McCabe and Lee Hansen, diver and underwater cameraman, flew to Key West to search for a sunken ship off the coast of the Dry Tortugas. In Key West they were joined by Ed Ciesinski said to be one of the top divers on the Florida Keys.

Boarding the thirty-five foot cabin cruiser "Flowalong II" commanded by Capt. Ted Smith, they headed out for a point some ninety miles from Key West just off the coast of one of the Dry Tortugas. They were searching for a French frigate said to have foundered at about this point, according to an old map in the possession of Lee Hansen. They easily located the ship since about three feet of its bowsprit shows above water at low tide. According to information learned in Key West the reef at this point has claimed many ships during the years.

A hurricane threatened during the first two days of diving but veered off suddenly and headed to the north. The frigate lay in about sixty feet of water with only its ribs still standing. Digging around the sand beneath the ship resulted in the finding of a large solid silver tray and several silver spoons as well as pieces of rigging and ship equipment. However nothing was found of the valuable cargo of silver or copper it was said to be carrying, nor of its strongbox.

The third day brought to light a small swivel-mount cannon of a much earlier date than that of the 1880 frigate. Experts claimed the gun was probably of an earlier date, something a galleon might have used in the early 17th Century.

The divers worked most of the time



The SeaBee after the successful raising from 85 feet in Cass Lake, Michigan. Dolphin Diving Club members pictured are Jerry Isler, Bob Wisner, Chuck Scarnegie, Pete Sisoy, Cliff Evans and Tom Sloan.

OPERATION "DROWNED BIRD"

By KEN WAGEL

The midday sun beat down unmercifully on the men in the two small boats. These men were members of the Dolphin Diving Club of Detroit and their objective on this sweltering day was to locate a seaplane, which had sunk in the middle of Cass Lake in Southeastern Michigan. From time to time one after another of the men peered impatiently over the side into the cloudy water.

The bubbles cleared and the water parted as two members of the Dolphins rose to the surface of Cass Lake, and signalled with the OK sign. Eighty-five feet below, in the cold, dark, unfriendly looking water these divers had at last encountered the airplane. After

in schools of barracudas who seemed to claim the old hulk as their home. During one dive Ciesinski cut his arm on a rough timber and a barracuda attacked at once. He managed to beat it off and headed for the surface. After a week of diving the "Flowalong II" headed back for Key West with enough film to make a picture for Bill Burrud's "Treasure" show on television. Currently Hansen is in Baja California with his diving gear looking for the wreck of an old galleon.

DRIFTWOOD IS MISSING THIS MONTH

Your insults and snide remarks have reduced Mr. Kohler to the sick bay at the end of the jetty. Perhaps a few of your good wishes will bring him back to these pages next issue. Send a Christmas present to the scoundrel, that'll put him on his feet and back at the typewriter!!

days of hard diving, the Dolphins had located their elusive quarry while the efforts of many others had proved futile. While an effective search pattern was used, the determining factors in the success of this group were patience and hard work.

After attaching a line to the plane to mark its location, the twelve divers, all Dolphins, held a conference and decided to take on the project of raising the plane themselves. The owner was notified and a few legal barriers were cleared. He also gave them some valuable advice on the proper method of raising the craft. Salvage operations were now ready to begin.

The plane didn't crash but had mysteriously sunk when the pilot landed it on the lake. This accounted for the fact that the plane was found in a relatively undamaged condition. The divers noted that the craft was upside down with one wing buried five feet into the bottom of the lake. This presented another problem. To prevent further damage, the plane would have to be freed from the grip of the ooze, raised slightly, righted and then brought to the surface.

A raft supported by four barrels was very generously donated by a resident of Cass Lake. A rubber lifting raft was procured in the same manner. Ropes, pulleys, cables and winches from the garages of the Dolphins and their neighbors soon appeared and were put to use. The raising rig, as a whole, was somewhat crude, but effective. Despite the lack of commercial salvage experience and equipment, Operation "Drowned Bird" looked quite professional.

The deflated lifting raft was lowered to about thirty feet below the surface and made fast to the landing gear of the plane. The divers then took an

TINNITUS

By John Backus

Research Director,
California Council of Diving Clubs

One Saturday morning in August, 1957. I was diving for halibut off Palos Verdes. I was going deeper than usual, and my ears were hurting considerably. (I was not using scuba.) However, being obsessed with finding a halibut, I paid no attention to the pain in my ears, feeling that after seven years of diving they should be tough enough to take it. As the diving progressed, I became aware of a high-pitched ringing in my right ear. We are all accustomed to some extent to having various creakings and groanings in our ears after diving, so I paid little attention to the ringing, although it was something new in my diving experience. When I came out of the water I noticed that in addition to the ringing, the ear felt "stuffy" and quite deaf, and the sound of waves breaking on the shore produced in the ear a curious feeling of reverberation.

"Stuffy" feelings in my ears after diving are nothing new, but they usually disappear in a few hours. By the following Monday some of the deaf feeling had gone, but most of the "stuffy" feeling was still there, and the ringing was as loud as ever. The reverberation effect

had settled down to a "jangling" noise that occurred whenever I listened to more than medium loud sounds; this effect was particularly annoying during the playing of music. Hence I consulted an ear specialist, who fortunately was able to see me the same day (Monday).

His examination disclosed nothing visibly wrong; the ear drum was normal and the Eustachian tubes were open. However, an audiometer test showed a considerable hearing loss at high frequencies in the effected ear, the response being down 60 decibels at 8000 cycles per second. I then learned the bad news: nerve damage had been sustained in the inner ear, and nothing could be done about it. I could only hope that it would heal in time. The "jangling" echo he termed diplacusis, and said it would very likely disappear; the high pitched ringing is called "tinnitus" and might or might not go away. He prescribed some vitamins which might promote the healing process and told me to lay off diving for the time being.

A week later another audiogram showed that the hearing in my right ear

was recovering, being down only 20 decibels at 8000 cycles. A month later the hearing was only a little impaired, and finally a test three months after the accident showed the hearing fully recovered. The diplacusis and tinnitus were still present, and the "stuffy" feeling persisted. Lobster season being now open, the doctor reluctantly agreed that I might start diving again providing I limited myself to no more than ten foot depths.

At the present time, fifteen months later, the tinnitus is still present. It varies in intensity from barely audible to loud enough to hear while driving, and is very annoying indeed. The diplacusis is almost but not quite gone, and is also quite variable. The "stuffy" feeling is also practically gone, showing up only rarely. Whether there will be any further improvement is problematical; there has been very little perceptible change in the last six months. I have cautiously extended my diving limit to fifteen feet, and a number of audiograms taken after diving trips show no recurrence of the original hearing loss.

Since my accident I have seen three letters in Skin Diver Magazine from divers complaining of the same difficulty and wanting to know what to do about it. There must be many more divers with this ear trouble that have not been heard from. Unfortunately, all that can be said to those now afflicted with tinnitus is that at present nothing can be done about it.

The fact that this affliction can occur is something that all divers should know, hence this article. The cause is apparently too great a differential pressure across the ear structure, i.e., insufficient equalization of pressure through the Eustachian tubes. To determine the cause and hence a possible cure we need more information. I am therefore asking that any diver that has had ear trouble of the sort resembling the above write me care of Skin Diver Magazine and give me an outline of his case. This outline should include the following:

Date of injury

Diving depth — Scuba? — behavior of ears

Symptoms at time of injury

Symptoms since — tinnitus: persistent or temporary

Diplacusis: persistent or temporary

Results of audiometer tests

Other details

Any such information would be greatly appreciated. As soon as anything definite is learned about preventing or alleviating this condition, it will be publicized. In the meantime, if your ears hurt, quit!



"Drowned Bird" just as it broke the surface (on the way up). Diver is Bob Weisner.

extra tank down and inflated the raft. Eighty-five feet below, the "Drowned Bird" trembled, then slowly began its climb through the eery blackness. The divers, their rubber clad features visible only when caught in the weak rays of their lights, hovered around, seeming to give encouragement to the straining craft.

The lifting raft bobbed quietly to the surface, much to the elation of the crew waiting there. It held the plane suspended some fifty-five feet below. The Dolphins then snubbed the line to the barrel raft and again deflated and sank the lifting raft. This procedure was repeated until the plane, like some aroused monster, broke the surface. It was then towed to shallow wa-

ter and finally beached with the aid of a wrecker, and 600 feet of cable. A mechanic was on hand to immediately begin work on the engine. The hull compartments were pumped dry and patched and then the refloated "bird" was towed to a work area for further repairs.

Everyone involved agreed that the whole endeavor was hard work, but excellent experience and a lot of fun. Everything went along reasonably smooth due to the coordination among members throughout the whole project. More harmonious team work would seldom be found in commercial outfits using expensive equipment. Future enterprises of this nature are now anticipated with confidence.

AMITYVILLE, NEW YORK—A possible boon to skin divers may be the invention of **Dr. Eugen A. Lloyd** who has managed to perfect a skin diver contact lens. The lens fits over the entire front of the eye, placed in under the lids, thus eliminating the problem of falling out or water seepage. To prevent distortion and to give natural vision underwater, the lens has a minute parallel piece of plastic fused to its central part. **Dr. Lloyd** claims that it is not necessary to have an air space for clear underwater vision with his new lens. This invention could solve the problem of a leaking mask and eliminate the lack of circulation brought about by prolonged submersion.

HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA—Skin diver **Robert J. Manicki** was awarded \$5,500 plus court costs by a jury for injuries he received when struck by a safety boat last year during the **Pacific Coast Championships** at **Laguna Beach**. The diver was awarded the damages from **Gates Brown III** and **Jay Semar** following a five day trial. In denying liability for Manicki's injuries, **Brown** and **Semar** maintained he had waived such rights by signing an athletic association release prior to the spearfishing contest.

SUGAR LOAF KEY, FLORIDA—Bones found by three skin divers proved to be those of an animal and not a human. The three Navy men, **Robert Croft**, **Maurice Young** and **Joseph Maguire** spotted the bones while diving a half mile south of **Harris Viaduct No. 2** on **Sugar Loaf Key**.

BAYVILLE, NEW YORK—Skin divers were called during the **Long Island Stock Outboard Racing Association** meet off **Center Island Beach** to locate a boat that had flipped over and then sank during the races. The boat was found and later beached with the aid of the **Coast Guard** and marine police.

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—Norman Ream, who descended to 370 feet off **Catalina Island**, California last year, was robbed of \$1340 in diving gear. Ream told police that a burglar looted his auto of 10 tanks, containing a special helium-oxygen mixture, and two regulators.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA — The **Coast Guard** sent skin divers down off **Alcatraz Island** in search of the body of escaped convict **Aaron W. Burgett**. Divers were used in the search for the man after officials at the prison were satisfied he couldn't have made the swim to the mainland in the strong tide and rough water the day of the escape. A companion of the convict turned back and was picked up by prison guards. Divers were not successful in locating the body.

FIRE ISLAND, NEW YORK—The **SS Savannah** may be found at last. Divers have located a copper sheathed hulk in the ocean off **Fire Island** at the site where the historic steamship was believed lost. The hulk was found in 25 feet of water by **Lee Prettyman**. A piece of the copper sheathing was brought to the surface for examination. However it has not been proved this is the **Savannah**.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Navy has taken steps to stop amateur skin divers from trying to adapt surplus artificial lungs for underwater sports. All **Momsen** lungs, formerly used by trapped submarine crews to reach the surface of the water, will be mutilated before they are sold as surplus.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS—The **Army, Marine Corps** and a skin diver assisted state police in an unsuccessful search for a .38 calibre revolver used in the murder of a taxi driver. A 64-man detachment using mine detectors searched an area for the weapon while diver **Robert A. Libby** of **Portland** explored **Otter Pond**.

GENEVA, NEW YORK—State skin divers are conducting a drive in a five county area to raise money for basic equipment to be used for drownings and other rescue work. The group is striving for \$1600 for the purchase of a portable air compressor and storage tanks. Divers in the area have placed themselves on a 24 hour call to help in emergency situations.

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY—The **Paterson Museum** has had on display an exhibition of underwater life such as plants and fish encountered by divers exploring the ocean floor.

Besides scientific enlightenment the show was in part put on to show the equipment that has been developed to allow man to enter another realm of exploration. A tropical fish aquarium is on display, equipped with a mask so that a "skin diver's view" of fish to simulate natural surroundings can be obtained.

LEWISTON, IDAHO—Three skin divers were "snowed out" in their attempt to explore the inundated town of **Roosevelt** in southwestern Idaho. **Ted Piche**, **Ray Hyde** and **Jim Jensen** made the trip to **Roosevelt** lake which was formed in 1909 when a portion of **Thunder** mountain sluffed and dammed a stream until it was 35 feet deep over the mining town of **Roosevelt**. The trio didn't get to dive on the submerged city as they were forced to leave the area because of heavy snowfall that threatened to block off their exit.

PORT ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA — **T. Moloney** recovered an electric motor from a 26 foot well near the **River Torrens**, under several feet of mud and rock. The motor, used for pumping water on park property, was washed into the well by a recent flood.

ATHENS, GREECE—A pair of skin divers have discovered the ruins of an ancient city believed to have been the city of **Felou** which was destroyed during an earthquake in the 6th century A.D. The discovery of large fragments of fluted columns was made at **Aghios Andreas Beach**. The inspector of antiquities at **Olympia** went to the spot and carried out diving operations himself.

INVERMERE, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA—A new club in Canada, the **160 Club** has one qualification. Membership is granted to anyone writing his name on an aluminum pan at 160 feet below the surface of **Twin Lakes**.

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT — Oystermen who have been experiencing losses from a starfish invasion of local beds, have been offered the aid of skin divers. Divers of a local club have offered their assistance in determining the destructive habits of the starfish. No actual plans have been formulated, but both divers and the oystermen are considering systems for destruction of the pesty starfish.

SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS—A private salvage crew including skin divers and sonic experts has been hired by the **Bethlehem Steel Company** to conduct an underwater search for missing nuclear expert **Richard H. Tingey**. The missing man sailed out of **Wollaston** alone on September 6 aboard his 38 foot sloop and hasn't been heard from since. The divers investigate any protruding shape in the sea bottom as registered by the sonic equipment. Nothing has been revealed of the boat or its important passenger.

RENO, NEVADA—Story hour for the children at **Washoe** county library recently featured the diving film, "**Ten Fathoms Deep**".

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA—**Jack Tees** of the **Oakland Eel's** has been appointed **Commissioner of Competitive Skin Diving** for the **Pacific Association of the Amateur Athletic Union**.

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA — Rough seas prevented 19 members of the **San Joaquin Skin Divers** and their guests from the **Santa Barbara Skin Diving Club** from completing a scheduled trip to the **Santa Cruz Islands** for a spearfishing expedition. Turning back they anchored about mile off shore where they reaped a fair share of sheephead, lobster and abalone.



NEWS CURRENT

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE
COMPILED AND EDITED IN
SKIN DIVER OFFICES.

Local diving news from readers welcomed.

RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN—Lumberjacks in skin diving equipment have found a bonanza at the bottom of **Boom Lake**—an estimated one million board feet of usable timber which became waterlogged and sank during the heyday of logging a century ago.

FLORIDA—**Bill Pratt** was attacked by a barracuda while **IN** his boat. **Pratt** was guiding a fishing party when one of the group hooked a large barracuda. The 53 inch, 36 pound fish leaped into the boat and bit **Pratt's** upper leg. Members of the fishing party clubbed the cuda and freed the surprised **Pratt** who said this is the second time he had heard of a cuda jumping into a boat.

TRINIDAD, CALIFORNIA—**Jerry Capps** has broken the record on large abalone. The record breaker measured 11 17/32" long, 8" wide and weighed 9 1/2 lbs.

HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA—Skin divers aided the technical staff of Warner Bros. in filming "The Old Man and the Sea". Divers worked in and under the skiff carrying **Spencer Tracy** and also the boat with the cameras and light crew during the filming of ocean scenes. The divers worked at depths from four to hundred feet in waters off **Cuba** and **Peru**.

BERMUDA—A bill which would prohibit unauthorized skin divers from searching for undersea treasure in **Bermuda** waters was given a formal first reading in the **House of Assembly**. The bill would allow divers to search for vessels and cargo only by special permission of the **Governor**. **Bermuda** claims water about fifteen miles out from her shore.

PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA—A **San Leandro** skin diver, **John E. Fletcher**, almost became a modern **Jonah** as the result of a close encounter with a killer whale. **Fletcher** and three companions were about 150 yards off **Lovers' Point** when the 30 foot mammal launched a swift pass at him. Two hundred spectators on shore watched as the beast bumped the diver and sent him spinning. All of the group made it safely to their 23 foot cabin cruiser which the killer whale circled for 15 minutes before swimming off.

SAANICH ARM, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA—**Bill Hook** speared two wolf eels, measuring five and six feet in length, while diving off **Whittaker Point** with his brother and another companion. One of the eel skulls will be mounted in a coffee shop and the other is being sent as a specimen for the **University of British Columbia** which had only a small specimen.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN—**Norman Ruikin** was stopped by police for a minor traffic violation. An underwater knife was found in the glove compartment of the car and the police ticketed him for possessing a concealed weapon. The charge was dismissed after the diver explained that the knife was used only underwater.

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA—The **Queensland Underwater Research Group** will make a new assault on the shipwrecked "liquor store" the **Scottish Prince**. The divers discovered the 71 year old wreck last year and brought up several bottles of Scotch whisky which government tests have proved OK to drink. However, one of the members admits that it has a strong sulphurous smell, burns with an almost invisible flame and that several of the bottles have blown up. The **Scottish Prince's** cargo is reported to have included 300 tons of Scotch whiskey.

COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA—Commercial abalone diver **Kevin Lengwel** is reported recovering satisfactorily from the bends.

The commercial diver became inflicted with the bends while diving off **San Clemente Island** and was rushed to a decompression chamber aboard the **USS Sperry** in **San Diego Harbor**.

WILLMAR, MINNESOTA—Skin divers and mine detectors were pressed into an intensive search for a **National Guard** plane believed to have plunged into **Green Lake**. The **L-19** disappeared in a heavy fog when the pilot was attempting an emergency landing.

COOS BAY, OREGON—An eight week old mystery surrounding the disappearance of a young couple and their four month old son was solved when skin divers, **Wally Lee** and **Howard Lentz**, discovered the car with the three victims trapped inside at the bottom of **Coos River**.

BERMUDA—Each summer two dozen men and women from the **United States** and other nations visit this sea resort, not for vacations but for scientific research. The group of scientists have turned an old hotel into the **Bermuda Biological Station** as a working place in their quest for knowledge of the sea. Skin diving is utilized in bringing undersea vegetation and life to the station for study. This past summer's work center around harvesting future food from the ocean as the land supply becomes depleted.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA—**Ronald Bennett** and **Myles Patureau**, biological aids for the Louisiana wildlife and fisheries commission, were given an assignment of diving to learn more of the varieties of algae along the inland side of **Chandeleur** islands and turned up information of a large supply of scallops. The commission is now investigating the possibility of commercial harvesting of scallops.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The **Maryland State Police** called upon the **Navy Diving School** in **Washington** to give them a hand in recovering a safe stolen from a business establishment. Two men, after being apprehended, admitted stealing the safe and rolling it into the **Paxtuxent River** after unsuccessfully trying to open it. The safe was recovered and returned to the owner, who opened it and found that the \$2,000 hadn't even gotten wet.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA—A family quarrel ended with the wife tossing a prize heirloom wedding ring into a pond. The husband donned his diving gear and after a fifteen minute search surfaced triumphantly with the ring. The wife immediately quipped, "that is just the brass one I use for all our quarrels. You don't think I'd throw your dear, dead mother's ring into a filthy pond? You are a beast!"

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND—Skin divers visited for the first time since its sinking more than 40 years ago the **S. S. Washingtonian**. The steamship sank twelve miles off the **Maryland** coast on January 26, 1915, after colliding with the schooner, **Elizabeth Palmer**. The steamer was discovered in 135 feet of water just off **Fenwick** shoals. Divers **Bob Newton** and **Aubrey McBroom** of the **Chesapeake Bay Skin Diving Association** explored the ship and found it to be remarkably well preserved and alive with sea life and fish of all kinds and sizes. The **Washingtonian's** cargo was 10,000 tons of raw sugar, which had long since deteriorated. Her strong box, reputed to have a sizeable amount of cash in it, was pushed in the mud as it happened to be on the side of the ship is lying on. The divers, however, refused to be discouraged and plan to return to the wreck in the near future with the proper equip-

ment and will make an attempt to either raise the strong box or blow it open on the bottom.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS—**Charles McCarthy** whose air supply gave out at 168 feet forcing him into a rapid ascent to the surface which caused a case of the bends is reported recovered. The diver spent five hours in a **Navy** decompression tank at the **Charlestown Naval Shipyard**. **McCarthy** and his diving buddy **William H. Gilmour** attempted buddy breathing to the surface, but this failed. **Gilmour** who followed **McCarthy** to the surface a few minutes later, also made his ascent too swiftly and was placed in the tank as a precaution.

CELINA, TENNESSEE—Two skin diving outfits, confiscated by the **Tennessee Game and Fish Commission** after the arrest of two divers for spearing bass, were sold at public auction. Diving gear confiscated included two regulators, two arbaletes, two tanks and a mask.

GREEN LAKE, WISCONSIN—Divers succeeded in recovering the body of **George Kronberger Jr.** after a week of attempts. **Kronberger** became afflicted with nitrogen narcosis while testing gear at 240 feet and descended rapidly out of sight of his companion divers. The accident occurred while eight divers were testing new zippers and snaps on diving suits devised by a **Chicago** man.

POINT LOOKOUT, MARYLAND—**Lee** and **Lynn Nicholson** and **Capt. Doug Schieble** recovered a \$40,000 dredge boat from the **Chesapeake Bay**. The dredge boat, sank while being towed to a marine railway for a new paint job. A new crane recently installed on deck made the boat top heavy and it capsized in rough seas. All topside equipment, including the new crane, had to be taken off the boat by the divers before it could be pumped and refloated. After removing the equipment, the divers fixed heavy cables to brackets that had been welded to the dredge and raised it to the surface where it was pumped dry.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—A 900 pound propeller blade from the wreck of the **Gwydir** has been salvaged by three divers. During the six hour operation the divers unscrewed the blade from the prop and raised it on a raft made of 44 gallon drums and then floated to shore at **Pelican Point**. When weather conditions improve, the group plan to salvage the five blades left.

HYANNISPORT, MASSACHUSETTS—An old backbreaking task has been made easier by the ingenuity of four skin divers who use their equipment to gather scallops instead of employing the raking method that has been used for centuries.

MIAMI, FLORIDA—**Philip Amero** has inaugurated an underwater rescue team for work along the **Tamiami Trail**. A complete team is being trained for the rescue work.

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY—Efforts are underway to locate and salvage the missing parts of the first submarine from the bed of the **Passaic River**. Constructed in 1878, the inventor stripped and sank his first craft when it failed to measure up to expectations. The **Marine Exploration Group** will send skin divers down to salvage any parts located.

CLEVELAND, OHIO—A 400 pound safe was recovered from the **Ohio Canal** by two divers. The safe was thrown into the stream by two youths who admitted taking it from an office in the **Aurora High School**.



Let's talk about . . .

UNDERSEA PHOTOGRAPHY

By

ERNEST H. BROOKS

President and Founder
Brooks Institute of Photography

This month's column will give us an opportunity to answer one of the letters which has come in from our readers. We are anxious to have these letters in order that this column may be of the most value possible to you. So let us hear from you through the "Skin Diver" office.

Question: I am very much of an amateur when it comes to photography and skin diving, but I would like to improve my skill. Last spring I went down to Cozumel, off Yucatan, and there the water was so clear and light that I could not resist finding a plastic bag for my Leica M3. I prefer a color film and having prints made. I would appreciate it very much if you'd give me some pointers to use. What is the best water proof case for the Leica? What problems are involved in taking 16mm movie pictures and what type of film would you suggest?

M.E.C., St. Paul, Minn.

Answer: Eastman Kodacolor film for your 35mm camera offers what you prefer. It is a negative color film with an ASA speed of 32. From one exposure not only can color prints be made but black-and-white prints and positive slide transparencies, or all three. Use a minimum shutter speed based upon the depth of field you require for the subject material. With a wide angle lens on your Leica and the water as you describe it in your letter, you may be able to shoot at 1/25th of a second at F5.6 about 15 feet below the surface.

For shallow depths your meter can be placed in a mason jar. Should you not have an exposure meter, I suggest a Weston. Cases and meters are advertised in this magazine. Look carefully through it and send for literature. The advertisers will welcome your inquiries and very valuable information can be obtained. When shooting still pictures underwater it is highly important to coast while the exposure is being made and squeeze the shutter release gently.

I wish I could answer your question

regarding the best waterproof case for the Leica from personal experience. I am not completely satisfied with the cases I have. I understand Wollman-Schmidt, 352 Seventh Avenue, New York, New York, makes a good one. Jerry Greenberg, an outstanding underwater photographer, is president of Seahawk Products, P. O. Box 1157, Coral Gables, Florida. I suggest writing him for a catalogue of his cases, also.

For the first few times in the area and depth you are diving, make one exposure as the meter indicates, then another 1 stop underexposed and still another 1 stop overexposed. From this test you will arrive at the proper setting for your shutter, lens, and exposure meter combination.

There are not many particular problems in taking 16mm color motion pictures underwater. As on the ground, keep the camera level and still for all except special moving shots. Camera movements should be smooth, level, and steady. Take many close-ups of the people that are in the medium shots of the underwater activity. In addition to the people, take close-ups of what they are doing. If these close-up shots are from two to five feet from the subject, they will be sharper, clearer, richer in color, and will contain more information and interest for an audience. Be sure to get long, medium and close-up sequences of above-water preparations before diving, as well as after the day's underwater activity is over. Shoot natural titles on the spot where possible.

Special underwater problems involve the practice required to swim from the hips down and not move one shoulder, thus holding the camera steady. Zoom and dolly shots are interesting and exciting after practice. I would suggest not making any sequences less than 10 seconds in length. Some camera housings, like the Samson-Hall, have a neutral buoyancy and are easier for the beginner to use.

Should cost be no factor and results

A.A.U. CONVENTION IN CHICAGO

By Ralph N. Davis

All Clubs are reminded to start making plans to attend the National Convention of the A.A.U. and Competitive Skin Diving Committee. This "fourth" annual National Convention since skin diving became a National A.A.U. sport was first held in Miami, Florida in 1955 with the University of Miami Sea Devil and the Florida Association A.A.U. acting as hosts.

The 1958 annual convention will be held at the Hotel La Salle in Chicago from December 4 to 7 and marks the 71st year for the A.A.U.

In four years this powerful National body has united the country's skin diving clubs, associations and councils in a coordinated action to lead our sport into the Olympics.

The Central Association, hosts to the gathering, has been striving to assure that this annual meeting will be one of the finest in the history of the organization.

Gustav Dalla Valle who attended the annual convention of the Confederation Internationale de la Peche Sportive in Brussels will give a report on the Olympic Presentation Program. The tentative location of Circeo about 40 miles from Rome has been considered as the site for the 1960 presentation and plans call for the 1959 World Underwater Spearfishing Championships to be held in the area as a trial run.

One of the major subjects to be discussed at the convention in Chicago will revolve around plans for a coordinated fund raising for the purpose of sending our National A.A.U. Champions abroad to represent the United States.

Those planning to attend the convention are advised to apply to the Hotel La Salle direct for reservations as soon as possible. »»»

the ultimate in motion pictures, then the film I suggest is the new Ektachrome Commercial for the original. It has an ASA speed of 16 with an 85 filter. This is a relatively new film and is an excellent one for commercial use. However, your first runs with your 16mm motion picture camera when you get it should use Kodachrome for testing and practice in using your camera.

(Editor's note: Skin divers seeking answers to photographic problems are invited to address their inquiries to Mr. Brooks, in care of Skin Diver Magazine. While it is not possible to reply to each letter individually, he will answer your questions in future columns on underwater photography.) »»»

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY IN NEW ENGLAND

By PAUL HENNESSEY

On Saturday evening, October 25, the Northeast Cine Divers were host to more than four hundred diver-photographers and their friends at the Memorial Auditorium in Melrose, Massachusetts. The occasion was the awarding of prizes to the winners of the club's First Annual Underwater Photography Contest. The contest was held during the summer months, June first through Labor Day.

The Cine Divers are the underwater photography club of the Northeast Council, and have spent hundreds of hours recording on film the color and fascination in the coastal waters from Maine to Cape Cod. Contrary to popular belief, we have found that our New England underwater scene can be photographed, with a bit of adjustment in technique, as easily as any submerged terrain in the world. True, we often have cloudy murky water which limits visibility of the eye and the lens, but that is due to our "wait a minute" weather. After any two-day respite from our northeast squalls, we find that it is possible to obtain excellent results on a sunny day to a depth of sixty feet. With fast lenses, we are able to use kodachrome, a very slow color film. Of course, flash or strobe has to be used in caves and under ledges, but brilliant color can be shown because the water is relatively clear.

With this experience, and after talking to members of other clubs in New England who were enthusiastic diver-photographers, the Cine Divers decided to sponsor the first underwater photo contest in the northeast area.

At eight-thirty, the program in the auditorium began with a brief welcoming address from Will Lefavour, President of the host club. The Secretary of the Cine Divers, Paul Hennessey, introduced Richard Myers, President of the Northeast Council of Skin Diving Clubs, Inc. Dick, always a fine public speaker, briefly outlined the work that has been completed to date by the Northeast Council in organizing the First Annual National Convention of Skin Divers, which will be held in Boston next February. Dick's enthusiasm is really catching, and after his address a great many of the divers in the audience were overheard later in the evening, discussing their plans to attend this great national convention.

Honorable mention for a well-composed picture of a diver-photographer

COCOS ISLANDS

By
THEO
BROWN

Twenty-seven islands surrounding a lagoon six miles wide and several miles long make up the Cocos island group with another island, North Keeling about 15 miles due north, completing the Cocos-Keeling group. Only three of the islands are inhabited and they are overgrown with dense jungle and coconut palms. The only wild life on the islands are a few wild cats. Fortunately there are no snakes, but there are plenty of large spiders and centipedes.

The lagoon water is crystal clear and warm all year, teeming with fish of every size and shape. The average depth of the lagoon is only 30 feet, but just outside the lagoon entrance the bottom drops off to 2000 fathoms.

There are plenty of small sharks, the biggest I have seen was about six feet. Manta rays of fair size are seen occasionally.

Spearfishing is excellent and the best catches are spotted cod and green fish. The crayfish are plentiful and big (they are the same shape as those found on

the West Australian coast, only here they are blue and white in color). Crayfish hunting can be dangerous with the presence of moray eels, some over six feet in length.

The marine life and coral formations are the most beautiful I have ever seen, with every color of the rainbow present. There is a form of fire coral which isn't too painful if one gets stung.

The other day my companion and I caught a "Stone" fish while out on the reef. This fish is considered one of the deadliest in the world. It is about a foot in length, looks like a dirty piece of coral and has a row of 13 spikes on the back fin. Each one of these spikes injects one of the most potent poisons there is and if stung a very painful death in a minute or so usually results. There is no known antidote. Even if the victim survives, they live in agony for about three to six months, as that is how long it takes the poison to wear off. Fortunately there aren't many of the pests about. 🐟

went to Fred Calhoun of the South Shore Neptunes. Third place went to John Viator of the Fairhaven Whalers for his picture of a diver with turtle. The second place was taken by Paul Connolly of the Boston Sea Rovers for his study of a diver in a panorama of the underwater scene. The husband and wife team of Nate and Pat Bartlett easily won first place for their beautiful study, in close up, of a school of colorful small fish. The Bartlett's are members of the Mass. Amphibs.

Fred Calhoun received an arbalette spear gun donated by U. S. Divers Co. Fred Viator's prize was a patented back plate and harness donated by Seacraft Industries, Inc., and a pair of "Manatee" fins given by James Bliss Co. The second prize to Paul Connolly, consisted of another backplate and harness from Seacraft Industries and a 3/16 wet suit kit (manufactured by Seacraft) from the Cine Divers. First prize to the Bartlett's was a complete Dacor diving lung from the Cine Divers. ➤



Left to right: The Hon. George Spartichino and Paul Hennessey, Secretary of the Northeast Cine Divers, present Dacor Diving Lung to first prize winners Pat and Nate Bartlett.



Syracuse Divers Locate Coaler

Two diving brothers and a friend have discovered another sunken wreck off the coast of New York. Robert G. Evans Jr., his brother Charles and Bernard Forth have recovered trophies from the "Keystorm" which sank about 45 years ago.

Robert Evans and Forth discovered the remains of the Sir Robert Peel last year off Wellesley Island, New York. The Peel burned and sank 118 years ago.

The discovery off Scow Island shoal of the Keystorm culminated a summer's work in search for the sunken wreck. The trio spent four days of actual diving, around 20 hours in the water, before locating the Keystorm, about 100 yards from where charts indicated she went down.

Among the relics recovered was the ship's anchor with about 100 feet of chain in 80 feet of water. They estimated the weight of the anchor at 600 pounds. Also recovered were the bell, steering wheel and three calibrated devices used to signal the engine room from the bridge. The bell was engraved with the ship's name.

The cargo of coal was removed before the Keystorm sank after striking the shoal in the early morning hours. Attempts to salvage the vessel, after its cargo was removed, were carried on for two years with financial losses to the salvaging concern involved. The divers reported the hull is double wrapped with four inch cable at 20 foot intervals, evidence of the unsuccessful attempt to raise the vessel.

Plans have been made by the trio to raise the Keystorm next spring and the divers have already contracted a boat works for the operation.

MINNESOTA . . . THE LAND OF 10,000 LAKES—1958 OFFICIAL HIGHWAY MAP.

MINNESOTA . . . 100 YEARS OF VACATION FUN—In this 42-page booklet you will find many colorful photographs and illustrations describing this wonderful land of nature. There are lakes to fish, game to hunt and scenery to see.

Minnesota Division of Publicity, Dept. IF, 220 State Office Bldg., St. Paul 1, Minn.

INVITATION TO MIAMI . . . TROPICAL PLAYLAND OF THE WORLD—This 20-page booklet tells all about the tropical splendor awaiting you in this famous playland. Many photographs and illustrations in color. Also many facts and up-to-date information about this colorful city.

OFFICIAL VISITOR'S GUIDE—20 pages of detailed information about accommodations in this area.

YOUR GUIDE TO FUN IN THE SUN—There's no need to waste a lot of time when you are sightseeing in fabulous Miami . . . This illustrated map will guide you to many magnificent attractions just a few minutes from the downtown area.

City of Miami, Department of Publicity, News Bureau, 320 N.E. 5th Street, Miami, Fla.



Club Movies Available

Program chairmen will be pleased to learn that two great underwater movies have recently been released to clubs and associations for showing at their meetings. The films are "Underwater Holiday" and "Secret Cargo" and are available through Adventure, Inc. in Chicago, Illinois.

Both films are 16mm, sound and color, approximately 30 minutes duration and packed with underwater action. The movies should be ordered one at a time by clubs, the only fee involved is the postage required to ship the film from Chicago to your address and the return. It is expected that there will be a long list of reservations for the films and clubs are requested to return the films immediately after the showing so that other reservation times and club showings can be met.

"Underwater Holidays" is full of sharks, turtle, fish, wrecks, numerous skin diving safety hints, superb underwater color, water skiing, boats and outboards.

"Secret Cargo" is an action packed story of underwater adventure taken during the research and recovery of an underwater wreck of the Civil War days. The husband and wife team investigate the old ship and find among other things "Secret Cargo".

Film reservations may be made through Jim Thorne, Adventure Inc., 112 West Ontario Street, Chicago 10, Illinois.

Scientists and Divers Hunt Cause of Crab Deaths

Marine Biological Laboratories, Solomons Island, Md. . . . Tiny organisms in the water may have been what wiped out thousands of pounds of food crab in the lower end of Chesapeake Bay these past few months.

Crabbers, skin divers and other watermen were urged to give the Laboratory a hand with their inquiry to find the cause of the water coloration. Scientists working with skin divers from Chesapeake Bay Skin Diving Association have been trying for some time to find the cause of "red oysters and red clams" which occasionally plague seafood packing houses.

The latest check was started when skin divers, diving around Smith Island, reported numerous dead crabs on the bottom plus death of fish and other marine life. Samples of the water were taken at various depths by the divers and turned over to the Lab for study. The Marine Labs at Solomons, Md., would appreciate reports from any divers in the Bay area who find unusually large concentrations of dead fish, food crab or marine life of any kind. Report may be made directly to Solomons, Md., or the Chesapeake Bay Skin Diving Assn., 4726 Winslow Rd., Kirby Hills, Md. (Wash. 21, D. C.)—Mike Freeman.

Hole In One!

Mr. Max Rilstone and father-in-law, Mr. Roy Jeansh, who have a garden at Winkie, Australia, went fishing in the River Murray and in a short time they'd three fine cod.

Inside a 20-lb. specimen they were cleaning later they found a perfectly good golf ball.

Beat that for a hole-in-one!—Shooters' Monthly.



Bob Retherford, President of the California Council, awards prizes to winners Blair Smith and Jack Brown.

6383 Pounds Gathered During Starfish

Newport Harbor's Starfish Operation was a huge success. Sunday, October 12th saw 150 skin divers from all over Southern California assembled at the Balboa Pavilion. From this center point the divers were ferried out to the Federal Jetties and reefs off Corona del Mar to dive for Starfish.

The morning and afternoon was filled with many events as the Judges, chosen from several skin diving clubs, weighed in the sacks filled with the familiar ocean pests. Checking the Starfish for proper identification were scientist's from the nearby Kerkoff Marine Laboratory in Corona del Mar.

Many divers and spectators gathered in the area at 4 P.M. to watch Bob Retherford of Newport Beach, President of the California Council of Diving Clubs, award the various prizes, many of which were donated by local merchants.

Sixteen of the prizes were awarded on a poundage basis, which totaled 6383 lbs. Other prizes were given away for the largest and smallest Starfish. Among the top winners were, first, Blair Smith of Santa Ana with 534 lbs., second, Jack Brown of North Hollywood, with 436 lbs. and third Ron Merker of Corona del Mar with 425 lbs.

The entire event was organized and sponsored by the Newport Harbor Sub-Mariners Skin Diving Club, California Council of Diving Clubs and the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce.—John Miller



Several truckloads of starfish were hauled away after the contest.

MAINE INVITES YOU—This 112-page booklet is designed to help you plan for that vacation which this state can offer. Between the covers of this booklet an endless variety of information has been arranged for the sole purpose of introducing you to limitless vacation possibilities in Maine. Many photographs and illustrations.

MAINE 1958 . . . STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION HIGHWAY MAP.

State of Maine, Publicity Bureau, Dept. IF, 921 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine.



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Amateur and Professional Film Festival

THE SECOND UNDERWATER FILM FESTIVAL will be held on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1958, at the new theatre auditorium on the \$30,000,000 Los Angeles State College Campus. Amateur competition in black and white stills, 35mm slides, 8mm and 16mm movies will be conducted from 10 A.M. until 4 P.M. The prize winning film will be displayed during the evening Festival which will honor the work of the professional greats in the field of underwater photography.

Amateur underwater photographers are urged to immediately contact ZALE PARRY or AL TILLMAN, Los Angeles telephone OLYMPIA 2-5423, or by writing to: The Underwater Photographic Society, 1147 Montecito Drive, Los Angeles 31, for registration details.

While the daytime screenings are free and open to all, attendance at the evening affair will be by invitation only and persons representing organizations will be given primary consideration in the issuance of the 400 invitations.

Hawaiian Ace Diver Suffers Bends

Hawaiian skin diver Jack Ackerman faces the possibility of temporary or permanent paralysis of his left leg after suffering the bends following a 250 ft. dive near Molokini Island.

Ackerman spent 42 hours in a Navy decompression chamber and then another day at the Pearl Harbor dispensary as a precautionary measure.

The island diver and his business partner, Larry Windley, were diving for rare black coral in 250 feet of water. After a second dive to the depth and before a recompression dive could be made, Ackerman passed out. Windley gave him artificial respiration during the 30 minute boat ride to Maui. In Maui, Ackerman was placed aboard a plane to be taken to Pearl Harbor and the Navy facilities.

Airborne over Maui Ackerman lost all symptoms of the bends and decided to return to Maui. Once back in Maui Windley telephoned the decompression chamber officials at the Pearl Harbor submarine base. The divers were advised to bring Ackerman to the tank even though he showed no further symptoms. Upon arrival at the base Ackerman felt all right except for a twitching in the legs.

The next day he was brought to surface pressure and suffered a relapse and was sent "down" again to 165 feet. He was brought back to the surface slowly and was released from the decompression chamber.

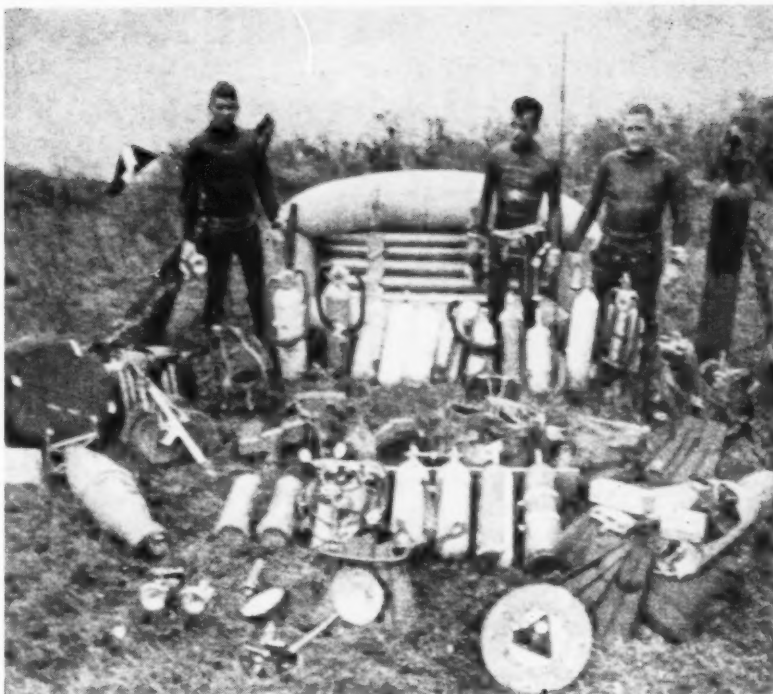
Fish Kills Spearman

A garfish or a long-tom killed a fisherman at Rigo, Australia.

Rigo is 60 miles east of Port Moresby. Attracted by the man's flaming torch, the fish leapt from the water and punctured his jugular vein with its "beak."

The man, a native named Gani Verave, of Ginogolo village, was spearing fish on a reef.

He was crouched on the reef with the torch in one hand and spear in the other when the fish struck him on the neck.—Shooters' Monthly.



Hollar, DiJulio and Besche with the equipment they are using to recover portions of the defending American fleet of 1814. A. A. Bodine photo.

SKIN DIVING 144 YEARS BACK INTO MARYLAND HISTORY

Relics from an American Revolution flotilla are being recovered by four Maryland divers in the Patuxent River near Nottingham.

The four, Carl Di Julio, Joseph E. Besche, Charles Mills Jr. and Joseph Hollar, believe they have located the remains of the ships of Commodore Joshua Barney's flotilla and have aroused the interest of history students at Fort McHenry, the Maryland Historical Society and the Smithsonian Institution.

Expecting no reward for their efforts, they are not anticipating hauling up a treasure chest or anything of more intrinsic value than a 200 year old piece of barnacle encrusted oak.

After many fruitless hours of searching, checking statements and asking questions they learned from a farmer whose property lies along the river that the old flotilla lay "there", as the farmer pointed to a spot in the river. Di Julio said, "We just waded out and walked right into it." The divers found a pile of jumbled ribs and timbers and the shape of a boat's hull carved out parallel to shore in the marshy bottom.

While the location of the wreck

makes it likely that it is a ship of the flotilla, there is no way of proving this from what has been brought up to date. Photographs of the pieces have been examined by experts at the Smithsonian and other museums, but have not been definitely identified with the Barney flotilla.

Ships in the flotilla defended Baltimore and the Chesapeake Bay against the British in 1814 and were scuttled when British capture seemed imminent. Later members of the crew salvaged the guns, gun carriages, anchors, galley stoves, cables, shot and other metal parts.

The flood and drought in the past 144 years has changed the Patuxent until today at the spot where the divers discovered the wreck, it is little more than a wide, marshy stream, hardly able to accommodate anything like a War of 1812 flotilla. The hull is about 10 feet off the shore, about 20 feet underwater at the deepest point.

A large stock of diving gear was employed by the divers in their search including a metal detector and suction equipment to clear the mud from some of the areas for search.




DINING FOR DIVERS

by Allan Petri

This next recipe goes under the fancy name of Abalone au Champignon. If you are a bachelor and want to impress your—well, whoever you want to impress at an intimate dinner for two, this menu should do the trick. Start with a cream Vichyssoise, a Caesar Salad, your Abalone au Champignon, green peas, and potatoes Parissiane. A bottle of good white Chianti will do wonders. Finish off the meal with Cafe Espresso and Hi Fi. This is the way Abalone au Champignon works best for me: You will need:

- 1 Abalone sliced and pounded
- 12 whole fresh mushrooms
- 1 cup of bread crumbs
- 3 yolk of any egg (eagle eggs are not the best)
- 1 tablespoon of butter
- 1 teaspoon of flour
- 1 cup of hot (but not boiled) cream
- 1/4 cup of olive oil
- 1 crushed clove of garlic
- 2 tablespoons of white Chianti
- 2 pinches of oregano
- 2 tablespoons of grated Parmesan cheese

Cut the abalone slices into quarters and dip them into the egg yolks. Then dip them into the bread crumbs. Fry the abalone in the olive oil and garlic until just light brown. Put them into a casserole. Now lightly saute (saute means barely fry, just get real hot with the olive oil) the caps of the mushrooms and the chopped stems. Add these to the casserole. Now separately in a sauce pan, melt the butter and mix in the flour until it is a yellow sauce. (This is called a roux!) Then add the hot cream slowly, stirring it in. As soon as it thickens, which should be almost immediately, add the oregano and the Chianti. Stir so that the sauce is completely mixed and pour it over the casserole. Now sprinkle the sauce with grated parmesian cheese and slide it under a hot broiler. As soon as the parmesian cheese starts to turn brown, serve it! You can decorate it if you want to with some chopped fresh parsley. This plus the remaining Chianti for drinking purposes, should make your meal a success. You may not even need the Hi Fi! 

SOMETHING FISHY

BY RAYMOND W. HOGLUND

The Carp, native of Asia, now ranges throughout the United States and is probably one of the most maligned fish extant.

Line fishermen yearn for his demise and blame him for any decline in a given season's catch. The most frequent crime he is accused of is eating the spawn of game fish, therefore bringing desirable species close to extinction.

Actually, of course, nature knows no villains. The Carp's principal diet is not, in fact, caviar, but rather aquatic insects, algae, and the succulent roots of aquatic plants. We have all, I am sure, seen the Carp's tail sticking out of the water, as he "rooted" in the bottom in search of these foods. It is this habit of "rooting" that is the real basis of the Carps' disfavor amongst the conservationist; for when present in abundance (which is another of his talents) they so fill the water with silt in suspension that many desirable fish are unable to survive.

Survival, of course, is another of the Carps' talents; for he can exist, even flourish, under conditions of pollution and contamination that hardly seems possible, due to his low oxygen require-


ments. This, strangely enough, is another cause for his disfavor; since most people automatically think of pollution when the word "Carp" is used.

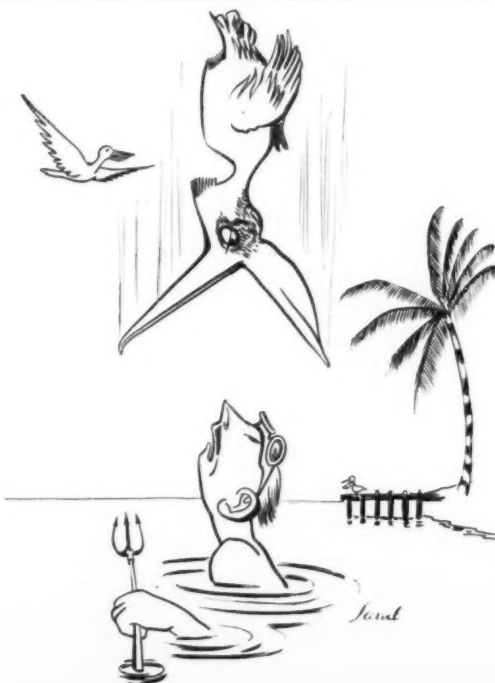
Actually, of course, the Carp is a very important food fish, having been marketed in the quantity of 19 million pounds recently, as compared to 4 million, 900 thousand pounds of yellow perch.

Another of the Carp's talents is his ability to suddenly appear in bodies of water where he was before unknown, such as artificial lakes, where it is certain he was not stocked.

There are many ways this occurs, of course; but it is believed one of the ways this is accomplished is through the very gelatinous eggs of the Carp being transferred from one body of water to another on the legs and feathers of aquatic birds.

All is not on the debit side of the ledger for the Carp, however, for aside from the above mentioned food value to humans, his young serve as a favorite item on the menu of many game fish, particularly the Northern Pike and Large Mouth Bass.

Last, but far from least, he makes an excellent opponent for the spearfisherman. He's usually found on weedy shores in shallow water and prefers traveling in large schools. The average weight of Carp is 10-15 pounds, but weights of 30-45 pounds are fairly frequent. A 45 pound Carp, once hit, takes off like an express train, diver and all; which helps account for the soft spot most spearfishermen have in their hearts for him. 





The yacht "Goede Verwachting" is a 60 year old traditional Dutch sailing ship completely modernized and equipped for diving.

Itinerary of Transatlantic Expedition "Guanahani"

Yacht 'Goede Verwachting'. Capt. J. Heyman; Miss G. Faure, Archeologist; Dr. T. Goedicke, Oceanographer.

Diving and exploration on the Mediterranean coast of France—Diving on Roman wrecks near Marseille; Exploration of the Riou archipelago and the Islands of Hyers; Diving and photography of archeological sites between Toulon and Saint Raphael.

Exploration of the Spanish coast—Exploration of headlands on the 'Costa Brava'; Diving expeditions to archeological sites; Visits to fishing harbors; Search for Roman and Greek wrecks along the ancient trade routes.

The Balearic Islands—Search for the archeological site where a Greek bronze figurehead was raised last year by an American yacht; Underwater photography and fishing in the waters surrounding the smaller islands of the group.

The western Mediterranean—Exploration along the North African coast to Gibraltar and Tangier; Search for vestiges of ships of Phoenician age.

The Canary Islands—The expedition follows the Phoenician trade route to the Canary Islands; Underwater exploration of the waters around the islands; Expedition to the volcanic island of Lanzarote and study of the submarine lava flows.

Towards the Americas and the Caribbean—Following the trade winds to the Caribbean, Oceanographic observations

THE COAST OF CORAL

By Arthur C. Clarke

Photography by Mike Wilson

Mr. Clarke is better known as an astronaut ("armchair variety", as he puts it) for he has written several books about the conquest of outer space; however, he writes a fine book of underwater adventure, too. *The Coast of Coral* relates the experiences the author and his companion Mike encounter underwater and along the shore of the Great Barrier Reef. The reef is a labyrinth of coral, dotted with occasional islands and shielding a thousand miles of the Australian north-east coast from the open Pacific. This area had an exciting early history of explorers, early settlers, pearl-ers, and hostile natives (all mentioned in the book) but because it was off the beaten track of the major European exploratory efforts, it never achieved the romantic prominence of, for example, the Spanish Main.

If any divers contemplate visiting Australia, they would do well to read this book to get the general picture on where to dive, how to get there, and what conditions they may expect to encounter. After finishing the book the rest of us stay-at-homes will certainly

during the crossing. Study of marine life, water temperatures, Recording of underwater sound; Dives during the transit and photography of marine life; Observations of marine life by means of sonic apparatus.

The Caribbean—Underwater photography on the Bahama banks; Sampling of coral sands and sediments around reefs and over wrecks; Study and photography of fish life, registration of underwater sounds.

Islands in the Caribbean—Jamaica—Exploration at the sites of the buccaneers, Port Royal, the sunken city; The 'Silver Shoals' exploration for wrecks with geophysical apparatus, study of the sedimentation around the wrecks — archeological studies; Search for wrecks of early Spanish or pre-Spanish times; Exploration of the little-known islands and reefs off the coast of Honduras and Nicaragua.

Expedition Headquarters, Paris: C.C.-E.S.M.F., 11bis Rue Beaujolais (1er) Tel: RIC 56.63.

wish we could go with them. Like any coral reef, the Barrier Reef abounds with sea life and the water, except when stirred up by storms, is warm and clear.

The author was never much of a swimmer and once he started skin diving he was much too engrossed to waste the time learning to swim. As a result, Mr. Clarke without his fins is, as the song goes, like a boat without a sail. On one occasion he had to swim out through the surf to a friend's boat, aboard which his fins had already been stowed. To quote the author: "There was nothing for it but to hurl myself into the foam and to battle out from the shore as best I could, using alternatively a spasmodic breast stroke and a kind of despairing, going-down-for-the-last-time overarm. "This to me is a hilarious description and an example that typifies the writer's style throughout the book. Oh, yes, he made it out to the boat.

Thursday Island lies between Australia and New Guinea and here, where not too long ago the natives ate "long pig", is the center of a thriving mother-of-pearl industry. The local divers used helmets of design that has not changed since the turn of the century. If they should start using a more modern rig consisting of a mask with a regulator and a hose up to a surface pump, the principals of this book can claim credit; they were the first to demonstrate the new rig to the divers.

For shutterbugs there is a last chapter entitled *Postscript: for Photographers Only*, which I read anyway. The author used Leica cameras in Lewis Photo-marine cases. He gives considerable information concerning the use of black-and-white and color film as well as some development advice for the latter. The thirteen color and many black-and-white photos attest to the accuracy of the information in this chapter.

For diving information, for interesting anecdotes from the history of this yet wild coast, for underwater photo information, and for just plain enjoyable reading, this is a fine book and I recommend it to all *Skin Diver* readers. Harper & Brothers, \$5.00. 208 pages.

Michigan Skin Diving Council News

By Ted B. Nixon

214½ West Court Street
Flint 3, Michigan

The months of September and October were very busy months for the members of the Michigan Council for it was during this time that two of the biggest and most important events of the year took place.

The first of these events was the Michigan Skin Diving Council's First Annual Ball which was held at the Jefferson Beach Ballroom in St. Clair Shores. The Ball was held on Sept. 29th and was very well attended by a majority of the Council members all of whom enjoyed themselves tremendously.

The Main attraction at the Council Ball was the selection of "Miss Michigan Skin Diver of 1958". There were fifteen entries in the "Miss Michigan Skin Diver of 1958" contest that represented approximately the same number of member clubs. The Judges in the contest were members of the Council Board of Directors that consist of Truman Schrag, Pres.; Betty Watts, Vice-Pres.; Don Brackenbury, Treas.; Dick Metzler, Dir.; and Jean Crittenden, Sec. The Judges really had a difficult task in selecting one girl from the number of entries as all were extremely attractive. Entries were judged on their looks, charm, and gracefulness.

The lovely girl chosen "Miss Michigan Skin Diver of 1958" was Miss Carrie Harris, representing the Ann Arbor Amphibians and her court consisted of Mrs. Elizabeth Bradley, 1st runner-up, representing the Gasco Scubaneers, and Miss Carol Staltman, 2nd runner-up, representing the Scorpions of Detroit.

In accordance with the By-Laws of the Michigan Council the First Annual Ball of the Michigan Skin Diving Council was sponsored by Flint Cuadro Pescadores with the co-operation of Mr. Harry Johnson, owner of St. Clair Divers Co.

The second of these events took place on October 12th at the regular business meeting of the Council, this was the selection of the Diver of the Year and awarding of the Ted B. Nixon Diver of the Year Perpetual Trophy.

The basis for awarding this trophy, for the benefit of those clubs who were

"Miss Michigan Skin Diver of 1958" and her court. From L to R: Carol Staltman, Second Runner-up; Elizabeth Bradley, First Runner-up; and Carrie Harris, Miss Michigan Skin Diver of 1958. Photo by Dick Metzler.



not present at the Oct. 12th meeting, is as follows: Every member club of the Michigan Skin Diving Council may submit one candidate as Diver of the Year by sending a synopsis of their candidates experience and accomplishments in regards to skin diving in Michigan to the Board of Directors of the Council, when all are received by the Board of Directors, they will then choose the Diver of the Year. In order to qualify the candidates must have been a member of the Council for not less than one year. Any mention of depth or endurance records or attempts at these records shall automatically disqualify any candidates. Any person who is commercially connected with skin diving or scuba diving shall not be eligible for this award.

As the donor of this trophy I am very happy to announce that the first person to be awarded the Diver of the Year Trophy is Robert Stepp, a member of the Ann Arbor Amphibians. Some of Bob's qualifications for the trophy are his active participation in all Council activities since the inception of the Council, his activities in teaching the younger set the safe way to use diving equipment, and also his help in representing Michigan and the entire Great Lakes region in the National A.A.U. competition at the Bahamas last August.

The October meeting of the Michigan Council was quite a busy and interesting meeting in addition to the awarding of the Diver of the Year Trophy, due to the presence of Mr. Ernie Smith of the A.A.U. who presented the case of A.A.U. to the members of the Council and discussed the possibilities avail-

able to members of A.A.U. It was decided by the Council to await a definite set of rules pertaining to skin diving in the Great Lakes region before any move is taken towards the entire Council joining A.A.U.

Another important step taken during this meeting was the raising of the Council dues from \$.25 per member to \$1.00 per member in order to put more funds in the Council Treasury so that more activities can be held without additional cost to the members. This move was accepted unanimously by all clubs present. A committee of two, made up of yours truly and Fred Shaft, of Treasure Unlimited of Detroit, was appointed to set up a budget for the forthcoming year in anticipation of an increased treasury.

A very interesting discussion was held concerning rules for future spear-fishing contests and as a result of this discussion a committee headed by Jerry White, of the Ann Arbor Amphibians, was appointed to set up a set of rules that will be enforced at all future spear-fishing contests of the Michigan Skin Diving Council.

It was also suggested that all clubs get their bids for activities in to the Special Events Chairman, Bill Harbin, 1502 Ronnie St., Flint 7, Mich. just as soon as possible so that next year's special events program can be arranged early in the year and all clubs can be notified well in advance.

In closing this article I would like to request all clubs in Michigan to contact me at 214½ W. Court St., Flint, Mich. with news of their clubs activities so that they can be included in this column in future issues. ➤

NEW YORK EMPIRE STATE UNDERWATER COUNCIL

By GENE PARKER
Johnson Rd., RD #4
Scotia, New York

"The bad skin diver is one of the rudest and most boorish persons ever



to appear outdoors." This is but one sentence of a condemnation of the bragging, exhibitionist, fish hog, inconsiderate, and dangerous diver described in "The Fisherman." The point of the whole story is this:

If we divers don't do something about the bad apples in our wonderful sport, legislation curbing diving activities will be forced on us. Legislation doesn't cure, it kills. Don't kid yourself by shrugging it off and saying "it's not my business." Let's hear your ideas on the subject. What do you think of licensed skin divers? About restricted diving areas? What can we divers do about the delinquent divers? Bans on spear-fishing? give it some thought. It's nearer than you think.

Some divers at Montauk have used the DIVERS FLAG on buoys as overnight or week-end markers of fishing areas.

Would you blame the boatmen if they got disgusted and said "the hell with the DIVERS FLAG, from now on we ignore them as if they weren't there."

You are perspiring in your well-insulated suit and can hardly wait to drop through that hole in the ice. A shivering newspaper reporter walks out on the ice dressed in a summer top coat—no hat, no gloves, no overshoes or rubbers. He says "You damfools are going to freeze to death!" This is typical of the general public's reaction to ice diving. The public thinks ice diving is a form of lunacy. The public doesn't realize that good divers use safeguards and the utmost caution when ice diving.

This month we mention only the obvious precautions of ice diving, such as a securely anchored safety line, line tenders, and standby diver.

For Council Constitutions, and information on the Empire State Underwater Council write to:

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RHODE ISLAND COUNCIL REPORTS

By **JOHN J. McANIFF**

184 Bellevue Ave.

Newport, R. I.

Looking back for a moment on the memories of the busiest season of summer diving that Rhode Island has seen in a long while, one cannot help but note the tremendous advances made by the solid organization and willingness of the men who make up the R. I. Council of Skin Diving Clubs. Among the successful activities sponsored by the Council are: The R. I. Team Championships held at Narragansett in June, the participation in the East Coast Championships at Wicopessett, New York in July and, though flaunted by high seas and wild surf on the originally scheduled date, The Rhode Island Individual Championships were finally successfully run at Newport in September.

Now the Council is showing the "Forward Look" and is preparing to launch into a program which will maintain lists of available divers throughout the state, ready and able to serve whenever the need arises. This program, still in committee stage will include the training by qualified instructors and testing by same of all divers before they are placed on the available list. It is expected that the program will also include a requirement for retesting of the man's qualifications every so often to insure against the possibility of sending out a man not properly prepared for an emergency.

On the news side it is reported that during a recently held competition of the Newport Underwater Sportsmen, a near catastrophe was in the making, little known to those in the water. An

18' inboard craft owned by one of the Newport club members, Charlie Carpenter, and aptly named "Short Pants" for reasons known only to the owner, suddenly caught fire and burned to the water line before those present could do much more than beach the craft on the nearest reef. Unfortunately the surf washed the proud little boat off the reef and she sank on the spot. On the fortunate side, no one was injured but it is understood that there was quite a batch of fish which were also aboard, that have gone to a watery grave, depriving all of the anticipated 'Fish Fry' which occurred a little prematurely.

Another interesting sidelight concerns one ship's bell from the wrecked freighter, "Belleville" which is just off Brenton's Reef. Since the ship went aground less than a quarter mile off the world famous Ocean Drive about a year ago, its bow broke away and sank just below the surface, carrying with it the ship's bell, a beautiful Brass specimen with the ship's name deeply engraved across its front. There they both remained for nearly a year while the Company working on the salvage of the stern of the vessel constantly put off diving for the bell, which is traditionally a fine trophy in salvage operations. Lo and etc; when they finally attempted to retrieve same it had already been neatly hacksawed off by some underwater scoundrel. Now I ask you, Mr. Underwater Scoundrel, was this a very ethical thing to do? (P.S.—Be sure to give me first refusal if you ever decide to sell a certain bell, whoever you may be.)

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SOUTHEAST FLORIDA COUNCIL OF SKIN DIVING CLUBS

by Bud Cox

P. O. Box 42543
Miami, Florida

Two New York divers, Phil Amero and Dave Whiting, were traveling into Miami over the Tamiami Trail recently when they encountered a type of accident that occurs quite frequently on this canal-lined highway. The Tamiami Trail runs straight as a new spear for 40 miles and many drivers get careless on this road and end up in the 20 foot deep canal. Phil and Dave made the scene just after a car had gone in the canal and Phil suited up to recover the body while the natives talked of the 'gators in these canals. Phil found that the water was very warm in his wet suit and the visibility was non-existent, but he soon found the body and they continued on to the magic city.

Frank Shulski reports that a boat load of Reef Divers got a small (five foot) sand shark the hard way: they ran over it with their 14 foot boat then jumped in to see what they had hit. When the fellows saw what they had hit they finished it off with a couple of spears.

One evening this fall Miami Glug Glugs Bob Wright and Herbert August flew to Isle of Pines, Cuba, for a three day diving trip. A small mountainous island off the southwest coast of Cuba, the Isle of Pines is a lush, tropical paradise almost untouched by civilization. The sights and wonders of the island are many and beautiful.

As the divers alighted from the plane they were graciously welcomed by the natives and introduced to local skin divers. The first day's diving produced several nice sized snapper and on the second day of diving 33 lobsters were taken in a half hour. At a large party in one of the island restaurants the lobsters were prepared in a langosta ensalada.

An Isle of Pines skin diving club was formed as an affiliate of the Southeast Skin Diving Council.

For anyone, skin diver or not, who has three days to spare, we recommend this beautiful tropical paradise. Accommodations and transportation are readily available at reasonable rates. The island is an open port and valuable merchandise can be purchased at unbelievably low prices.

For further information contact Southeast Skin Diving Council, P. O. Box 42543, Miami, Florida.

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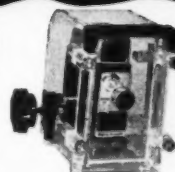


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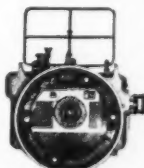
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NORTHEAST NOTES

By B. W. LUTHER, JR.

Northeast Council of Skin Diving Clubs,
P. O. Box 225, Fairhaven, Mass.

The 1958 season ended for the Bay State Aqua Club, October 11th with the members gathered at the famous Chick-land in Saugus for their 3rd Annual End of The Season Banquet. A delicious lobster and chicken dinner high-lighted the menu which was served to approximately 25 members and their guests. Nick Mascetta Combo provided excellent music for the dinner and the dance following the Banquet. John Keene, Banquet chairman for the Bay



Brad Luther

State Aqua Club, did a marvelous job arranging for the pleasant surroundings, delicious dinner and music.

Wayne Comeau, President of the Bay State Aqua Club, introduced the guest speaker, who with the co-operation of Wayne and the members of the club, proceeded to present an "Out-standing Contribution to the Sport of Skin Diving" Award to the surprised recipient. I sat in stunned silence when the name on the trophy proved to be "Brad W. Luther, Jr." Needless to say, that my humblest thanks to the members of the Bay State Aqua Club for their presentation and assurance that it shall always have a cherished place in my memory.

A great step has been taken by the Massachusetts State Officials which I am sure will result in a coordinated effort between the organized skin diving clubs and the authorities in curbing any unfavorable regulations that may be presented by uninformed Senators and Representatives, and perhaps some arrangement can be made to enforce some of the recommendations that have been made in the past covering safety in our sport. State Parks that are now closed to skin divers or any one displaying any type of skin diving equipment should be opened to divers, especially those from organized clubs practicing a strict safety code. Some form of re-

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striction should be placed against the sale of surplus gear such as the Momsen Lung and such equipment which all divers know as dangerous. Following in the steps of other up to date States, Massachusetts should have legislation providing protection with our Divers Flag.

Governor Furcolo has appointed a special committee to study all aspects of skin diving and to prepare a report for presentation by March 1959. James Cahill, a member of the New England Divers Frogman Club and one of New England's most famous divers, will head this committee as Chairman. Other members of this committee have not been made public at this time, but I understand that each of the State Agencies concerned will have a representative such as the Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Fish & Game, Dept. of Natural Resources, Civil Defense, etc.

I am also sure that this group will be working in close cooperation with the executive board of the Northeast Council.

Independent divers in Southeastern Massachusetts have banded together to form two newly organized clubs. Fall River Aqua Men—William Swist, President, 85 Chase St., Fall River, Mass. Ted Picard, Secretary, 64 Chavenson St., Fall River, Mass. The Fall River Club holds their meetings at the Fall River Fire Station #1, every second Wednesday night at 7:30 P.M.

Taunton Diving Association — President—James Fahey; Vice President—John Fahey, Treasurer—L. Burton Wood. All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, W. A. Burton, 103 Summer St., Taunton, Mass. The Taunton club meets at the Taunton Y.M.C.A. each Wednesday night at 7:00 P.M. One of the first business transactions of these clubs was to make application to the Northeast Council.

Each of these clubs requests that anyone interested in the sport of skin diving and who wishes to join a local growing organization contact one of the officers. Each club will also be giving skin diving lessons in indoor pools to anyone interested.

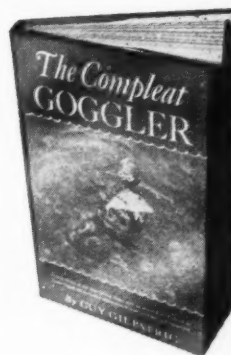
Los Angeles, Calif. . . .

ORCAS DIVING CLUB

By Cliff Trombley

Our club was organized Sept. 28 of this year. Our first meeting was held on the same date by six members. Officers are: President, Cliff Trombley and Secretary Treasurer Gilbert Haskell. We offer a lung course to help promote safety in the water so that every diver will know his limitations and abilities. The By-Laws for our club will be discussed and incorporated. We welcome any person who is interested in our club and sport. For further information contact Kelly at Granite 3-2051, or write 1856 S. Bundy Drive, W.L.A. 25, Calif.

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WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF SKIN DIVING CLUBS

By: Dick Klein
Ken Way and
John Miller

The latest club to join the Council is the Port Townsend Pile Divers. Welcome into the organization, fellows. The next meeting of the Council will be held in Tacoma, hosted by the Tacoma Scubaneers. If any other club would like to host the Council meeting, contact the Council.

A new club has been formed in Port Angeles, the "Nemgoris" (frogmen spelled backwards). If you need any assistance let us know. That's one of the things we're here for. I see by the

picture you sent that you don't need help in spearing fish. Bob Caso and Lou Sample each broke the Scuba record for ling, with a 65 pounder for Bob and whooping 74 pounder for Lou. Where did you say that spot was?

The Council is supporting Initiative #25. To save the salmon of the Cowlitz River, indirectly affects skin divers, so sign #25.

Puget Sound Mudsharks

Bill Mertz, on a diving trip to the San Juans with Dale Dean, established a new Northwest Scuba diving record when he took a 9 lb. 7 oz. rock cod. The record was previously held by Jim Vey of the Sheriff Divers. Dick Thrasher and Dick Klein, with other members of the club on a trip to Port Townsend took a 52½ and 40 lb. ling cod respectively skin diving. Thrasher's 52½ lb. fish is the second largest fish taken skin diving this year. It's only 12 oz. under Gary Keffler's.

Dale Dean was instrumental in helping to raise a 20 foot pleasure craft sunk in Lake Union, which sprang a leak during a storm.

The club on a recent outing journeyed to Titlow Beach in quest of octopi for the U. of Wash., as they are doing research on their glandular structure. It was very successful as 10 octopi were taken.

Bly Paul and Mac Thompson are hitting the local areas for specimens to stock a salt water aquarium.

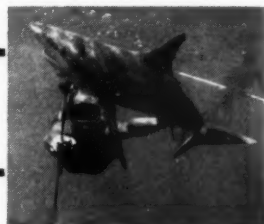
Tacoma Scubaneers

The Tacoma Scubaneers are busy planning the Northwest Treasure Hunt at Point Defiance Beach in Tacoma on March 22nd. All divers equipped with scuba gear are invited to attend. Outboard motors, a regulator, weight belts and water skis are among the prizes to be found. Cards and letters will be going to all clubs on the Pacific coast and the inland empire, but ALL divers are invited. If there are any questions, contact Jim Brown, 5005 N. 27th, Tacoma, Wash.

Summer has spread the Tacoma Scubaneers to the far points of the state, and the reports are just beginning to come in. Bob Kroeger, our past president, and Dick Ware, past secretary-treasurer, returned from the San Juan Islands with tales of fabulous fishing. An incredible "fish" found in one of the harbors turned out to be torpedoes. We have it first hand that navy practice ranges are no place to dive. The greatest adventure (or rather, aspiration) was that of Skeet Williams who has been going into the hills and prospecting for gold via lung. He claims to have struck it rich, but we're still waiting for the Cadillac to show up.

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N. U. R. G.

Hopes were high for a San Juan diving adventure when four of our fellows started north Friday night in a 38 foot cruiser. The balance of the participating group was to meet the boat Saturday morning at Anescortes. A real nice dive was enjoyed by the group while waiting for the arrival of the boat which never came. Meanwhile back on the boat, Lee Marton was preparing to swim two miles to shore to summon a rescue boat. Forty knot winds, high seas, and a dead engine contributed to a nightmarish experience for the four navigators on the boat. After having the engine repaired in a small shipyard, the fellows continued on their way only to suffer a small fire in the engine room. The trip was climaxed when the Sea Scouts towed the boat to Anescortes.

Norwest Divers

The ling are in! Last week the 36 foot "Skin Diver" weighed anchor to unknown waters. The 13 crew members all got their limits. Jack McNeal topped everyone with a 39 pound ling.

During the last month the club has hosted members from the Y divers and NURG on several night dives. A good time was had by all seeing many local inhabitants not ordinarily observed during daylight hours.

Two members on their way out to some wreckage off West Seattle, came across some 1600 electric razors all named brands that were trade-ins. Any one for a shave?

Y. M. C. A. Divers

The "Onawa" shuddered rhythmically as the diesel warmed to its task. A low fog hung over the lake, and in the morning silence sixteen divers and their families assembled in the main saloon to discuss their outing. There were three reasons for the proposed trip. First, Dr. Don Ericson, our host was graduating from the YMCA scuba course. Second, the Assistant Physical Director of the Seattle "Y," Dan Murray, wanted to honor his scuba instructors with Leader Fellowship Awards. Third, there were several somewhat remote areas in urgent need of exploration and exploitation.

Gliding out thru the canal locks into Puget Sound under the expert control of Doc Ericson the 88 foot craft headed for the first of the two spots. The exact location is classified, but beautiful ling in the twenty pound class were taken. The second spot visited, a favorite haunt of large octopus, with its interesting caves, crevices, cliffs and boulders is one of the most colorful areas in the entire Sound, Blakely Rocks. It was here that Doc Ericson received his graduation test. Ted Yerabek, YMCA Staff Instructor was happy to present him with his card.

SKIN DIVER—December, 1958



October 27, 1958

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YEARLY REPORT

National Competitive Skin Diving Committee

By **SERGE A. BIRN**
National AAU Chairman

This year has been the turning point in the development of skin diving as an AAU sport. In the first years of its existence, this Committee had to be on the defensive to get acceptance of the sport.

The best it could do was a slow consolidation of gains.

After National Rules had been set and approved at the 1957 convention, this Committee set out on a bold program to further promote our sport and its acceptance. This approach was fully proven that the sport is one of the greatest new sports in the U.S. and overseas—and a definite asset to the AAU.

A number of outspoken critics have been won over and are now friends and supporters of our sport.

A good example is Florida. This state was, through 1957, a hotbed of skin diving professionalism which created a widespread opposition to the sport. With the active assistance of the Florida AAU Association, this picture is completely reversed. Professionalism is dying. A number of skin diving clubs joined the AAU and the Florida AAU Association is actively assisting this Committee in the further development of the sport.

Two events are significant. The 1958 National Championships under the able leadership of Gene Vezzani, have been the best ever. For the first time an open women's championship was held in conjunction with the Nationals, as well as an International Open Championship. Nine foreign teams representing four foreign countries participated: Cuba (4 teams), Canada and Mexico (2 teams each), and Peru (1 team).

This event, and the widespread publicity it generated, caused an upsurge in the interest of skin divers in AAU's leadership. This Committee is flooded by letters from clubs, associations and individuals that have been won over to the AAU concept of Amateurism and want to join us in our work.

The safety and public service aspects of competitive skin diving are now broadly recognized. Significantly, an Army Air Force station recently called on the Georgia Association, AAU for assistance in the recovery of the body of an airman drowned while exploring caverns in a fresh water lake. The Navy, unfamiliar with fresh water cavern diving, failed in two attempts to recover the body—so the victim's family and the Air Force base turned to the AAU.

Of course, the AAU was not involved in any way as an organization. But two individual AAU sportsmen, Georgia skin divers Jack E. Faver and Walter S. Fleming spontaneously responded. They recovered the body at a risk of their lives and great expense in time and money.

As to 1959, this Committee plans great things. Among these is broadening the sport to cover women, Juniors and Seniors (Veterans)—and an organized participation of U. S. in European and World Championships. ➔

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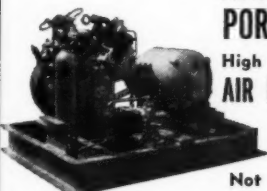
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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF DIVING CLUBS

By **DON BRAGG**
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On November 2 the Associated Skin Divers of Bridgeport sponsored an open spearfishing contest. The meet, once rescheduled because of bad weather, was marred with poor visibility resulting in no fish. However, the awards were raffled off after the meet with all proceeds going to the Crippled Children's workshop of Bridgeport.

At our monthly October meeting representatives from twelve clubs voted to raise council dues to \$10 annually, instead of just a \$10 entrance fee.

Unknown divers were involved in a dispute with line fishermen in the vicinity of the Thimble Islands. It was stressed that all clubs in the council try to reach divers everywhere and impress them with the importance of sportsman like conduct. The council is accepted by the people of the state, but a few incidents of this type could be unfavorable for all of us.

New officers elected at the October meeting are: president, William Jacobs, Conn. Sea Devils; vice-president, Paul Schmanska, Assoc. Skin Divers; treasurer, Don Sabo, Conn. Underwater Diving Assoc.; recording secretary, John Shaughnessey, Norwalk Skin Divers; and corresponding secretary, Dan Lasky, Norwalk Skin Divers.

Committees: certification of instructors, Robert Canary, Conn. Dolphins; George Swindell, Conn. Underwater Diving Assoc.; William Miller, Conn. Sea Lancers; spearfishing meets, Dan Sise and Robert Sayles, New Haven Tritons; George Swindell, Conn. Underwater Diving Assoc.; scuba diving meets, Ray Rich, Conn. Dolphins; John Hector, Norwalk Skin Divers; Carl Ellstrom, Conn. Sea Lancers; Fred Fabbri, Norwescon; Charles Monson, Conn. Underwater Sea Seachers; trophy purchases, Fred Doneday, New Haven Barnacles; Frank Giordano, Norwescon; publicity, Don Bragg, Central Conn. Scuba Divers; Herb Nichols, New Haven Barnacles.

AAU delegates are Will Jacobs, Paul Schmanska and John Shaughnessey.

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EAST COAST AQUATIC CLUB, INC.

By Kenneth Olsen

The East Coast Aquatic Club, Inc. recently celebrated their first anniversary. The club was formed as an all water sports club; although our primary sport is skin diving we also indulge in various other water sports such as water skiing, fishing and boating. In the winter months our members participate in hunting, fresh water fishing and skiing. Recently our club purchased jackets with an emblem signifying our all water sports interests.

The club, which was originated in Sept. 1957, has fifteen active members who are residents of the metropolitan area of Long Island.

We would like to hear from clubs who are interested in winter diving. We have a few members, having winter diving equipment, who would like to continue their diving through the winter. Any persons interested in joining our club or winter diving please contact the club through this address: 107 East St., New Hyde Park, N.Y.

Freeport, N. Y. . . .

LONG ISLAND DIVERS ASSOCIATION

By John Wilson

We are a new club, formed just this October with 17 charter members. Meetings are at Bill Hartig's shop and we have a 2600 gallon water tank for scuba training.

Many of the members have done some diving off the shores of Long Island on some of the known wrecks and recovered some anchors.

The policy of the club is to promote underwater safety, conservation and underwater survival.

St. Petersburg, Florida . . .

THE CORAL CAVE MEN OF TREASURE ISLAND

By John W. Stephan

During the latter part of August the writer had the opportunity to again dive on the beautiful Key West reef. Our trip this time took us out, through some rather rough, but very clear water, to Pelican Shoal in the Atlantic off Key West. Our eyes were treated to a beautiful panorama abounding with colorful reef fish, barracuda, octopi, Florida lobster and such.

Shortly after my return I had a rare opportunity of seeing a manta ray (approx. 5 ft. wingspread) in shallow water not 100 feet from shore in the Gulf. This would have been a rare opportunity, but, as often happens, where the picture was the camera wasn't. The ray was apparently chasing a school of small fish and gave me a good opportunity for a closeup look.

Bakersfield, California . . .

SAN JOAQUIN SKIN DIVERS

By Mrs. Ted Brown

Our club has been organized a little over a year and we are now in the process of incorporating. We are also buying a compressor and hope to have it ready by next summer. We average about two trips a month to Catalina, Anacapa, Santa Barbara or beach trips.

During the winter we have the facilities of the Hacienda Motel swimming pool. At the present time we are working on a float for the annual Christmas parade and are planning a Christmas party.

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Pawtucket, Rhode Island . . . RHODE ISLAND UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING CLUB

By Albert W. Pipes

Weather very nice for this time of year, it is chilly, diving is starting to taper off. Carl Thorton who won a spear gun for the largest fish speared in Rhode Island two years ago seems assured of getting the largest fish this year also. Carl bagged a 57 lb. Striper and hit a larger fish but was unable to hold him.

We feel Carl's bass might possible be the largest striper taken by an underwater sportsman, and would like to hear if any diver has brought in a bigger one. Al Point is conducting a course which ultimately goes from basic skin diving right through scuba. New members have been asking for these instructions, and the course is drawing a lot of interest from old and new members alike. On October 7th, we held a Clam Bake which was so much enjoyed we plan to make it an annual affair, some even want it monthly. Tommy Morrison was chairman.

Rockford, Illinois . . . GREATER ROCKFORD LUNG DIVERS, INC.

By Jack Egler

After considering the successful turnout for the Treasure Hunt Dive, one last club outing for the year will be planned. Some very interesting slides of trips to Florida were shown by Don Smith and Jack Egler, at the October meeting. The club received a letter from Jim Samorian, our former Treasurer, who has moved to Pittsburgh, Kansas. He reports a diver there can easily get along without air refills.

The vice President Ed Thorne was elected Treasurer and Bill Collins was elected vice President. Randy Puffet was elected to the Board of Directors. The club now has beautiful decals and cloth emblems available to its members. We also have a silk screen from which we can print insignias on T shirts and signs.

Torrington, Conn. . . . NORWESCON DIVERS

By Jack Hricko

Norwescon has had a much busier fall than had been anticipated. The Torrington YMCA requested a series of courses to be offered in basic skin diving. The first course began in November and will end before Christmas. The fall and winter series of lectures has begun with programs scheduled for local school and civic groups as well as a major program at the University of Connecticut.

The new scuba training program has been received from the printers and information will be shared with any club or individual wishing help with such a program. Correspondence may be addressed to Norwescon Divers at the Torrington YMCA. Norwescon will continue to function at full capacity to fulfill its goals—safety, training and education.

Coos Bay, Oregon . . . THE BAY AREA HELL DIVERS

By Mike Popovich

Our club organized recently following a scuba class given by Leo Harris of the University of Oregon. The class was held in conjunction with the Marine Biology School of the university.

Out of this class and the formation of the club we have contributed to society in that two of our members engaged in a search for a missing family of three in the Coos River. They were successful in their search as they found the car and victims which ended a seven week long search. The two divers credited with the discovery were Walter S. Lee and Howard Lentz Jr.

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Detroit, Michigan . . .

BUBBLERS DIVING CLUB

By Gary L. Neely

We are proud to be the first known diving club to incorporate the Divers Flag into our emblem.



The club has been very active during the summer months, having a dive almost every weekend. We had a very good turn out of our members on every one of the dives. This has been a great help as it brought a lot of new members into our club and has given us a reputation as being very active.

Our President, Andie Griffing, has done a wonderful job in organizing and promoting our meetings and our dives. The enthusiasm generated by the members is due to their attendance to the meetings and to the dives of our club.

We would also, like to take this opportunity to thank the Michigan Skin Diving Council and all associated clubs for their help in getting our club actively organized.

Phoenix, Ariz. . .

ARIZONA CACTUS DIVERS

By Larry Smallwood

We have had quite a few successful outings in the last two months. The most outstanding was our trip to Mexico which included San Blas, Mazatlan, Los Mochis and Guaymas. Unfortunately it was the rainy season and the visibility wasn't too good. At Guaymas we did have real good luck taking Bass, Sheephead and Red Snapper.

The club elected new officers for the next year. Our new officers are Joe Andrews, Cathy Renon, and Larry Smallwood.

San Fernando Valley, Calif. . .

GULLS & BUOYS SKIN DIVING CLUB

By Bert Litman

The "Gulls & Buoys" enjoyed a trip to Catalina Oct. 25th on the Vellron, 103 footer out of Newport Beach. Fifty members and guests boarded the boat Saturday night so they could leave at 3 a.m. to arrive at Catalina at 7 a.m. A cake in honor of Irv Litman's birthday was lit with trick candles. Irv blew the candles out only to have them light up again.

The trip was quite smooth, with the sun coming out just as we lowered the anchor. The water was clear as crystal and the diving was excellent. Roy Barton came up with two beautiful lobsters, Tom Barnes as usual speared the largest fish and Dick Smullen won the booby prize with the smallest catch. Herb Hughes and Barry Litman caught several nice size fish; Ken Rumberg, Bob Richards and Jack and Beverly Weinsoff got their quota of Abs.

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WANTED—Information concerning portable gas driven air compressor; 3000 psi at least 4 CFM. Write: Borger Skin Divers Assoc., 932 Nelson Ave., Borger, Texas.

WANTED—Sea sled for one or two divers, shallow water tank and regulator for training purposes, high powered spear gun. Phil Macfarlane, 50 Yonge St. N., Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada.

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SKIN DIVER—December, 1958

Lexington, Ky. . . .

"MERMEN"

By Estill Lyons

Spearfishing at Cumberland Lake has been at a standstill. They have lowered the water 38 feet below normal. This was done so a causeway could be built to an island, in the lake. This island is to become a state park. It is better known as "Bunker Hill" where a famous battle was fought.

The wind and waves causes the silt around the edge of the lake to be washed back into the lake and causes dingy water. The fish can sure sense this lowering of the water, because none are to be seen. We expect better conditions in a couple of weeks as the lake will be more settled. Suits are necessary, and only a few of the more hardy divers are now participating.

Dumont, N. J. . . .

SEA SHARKS

By Larry Rosen

Over the summer months the Sea Sharks really went to sea. Members dived in the crystal clear waters off Maine with a few of the club members journeying to the Florida Keys.

Club advisor Bud Jordan went with Gerhard Eidner and George O'Donnell to the Florida Keys where they took 600 ft. of 16 mm underwater color movies. We are planning to show these films along with a demonstration of skin diving to the public in the near future.

Other of our club divers went to Maine and explored some of the lakes in the deep woods and still other members helped in a salvage job in Upper New York state. To top off our activities, we have completed the new club house.

College Point, New York . . .

ALL-AMERICAN SKIN DIVING ORGANIZATION

By Bob Maeurer

Our summer diving ended with two outstanding performances by five of our members. First, a descent to 155 feet was made by Harry Kollmer, Fred Mehrling and Alan Iscoe at a quarry in upstate New York. Nitrogen narcosis was experienced by Kollmer and Iscoe while Mehrling was not affected. Visibility was non-existent and the water temperature was about 40°.

The entire club and especially Karl Avenarius and Bob Maeurer thank the Gillmen Club of Conn. for the invitation to their star mop held at Lighthouse Park, Conn. In competition with over 100 divers Avenarius collected the most and Maeurer bagged the biggest starfish.

Our club will continue to dive through the winter. Those interested in joining us call Bob Maeurer at IN 1-9758.

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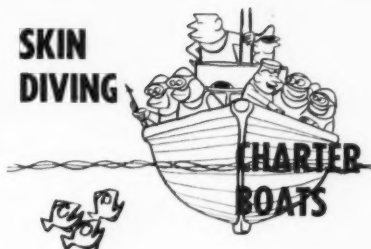


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Columbus, Ohio . . .
SEA NAGS DIVING CLUB

By Bob Nose

The YMCA skin divers of Columbus, while not noted for wrestling octopus or fighting sharks, are noted in the eastern states for our outstanding and thorough training. Many months of meeting with Y people and officials of our club have finally brought results. We do our training in the Y pool and to make the training more complete Bob Grady and Don Booth, physical directors at the Y, have helped us set up an eight month course.

It's great for the Y to set up this course, but what do they know about skin diving? Once more the club had good luck; Bob Logan, our skin diving instructor, is well qualified. An ex Navy frogman, he teaches at Ohio Wesleyan University and also at the Ohio Skin Divers Headquarters in Cedarville, Ohio.

On different occasions we have been called to recover stolen automobiles abandoned in lakes or quarries, and to assist in recovering victims of drownings.

Asmara, Eritrea, Africa . . .
RED SEA SAVAGES

By Lt. Bob Cahill

Our club was formed in late summer and we now have forty members. Our first diving trip was in the Asmara Harbor and the coral reefs near Green Island. Howard Whitehead speared a large spiny procupine fish which blew itself into a huge balloon when the spear penetrated the tough skin.

Bob Cahill discovered a coral encrusted clay vessel during the day's diving and Norm Montague discovered an old piece of pottery with a carved design on the exterior. During the second day of diving many fish were seen including butterfly fish, parrot fish and a school of tuna.

The next trip planned by the club will be to the coast of Zula.

East Haven, Conn. . . .
EAST HAVEN SEA SERPENTS

By Edward E. Mann Jr.

This is the first club report for the newly formed club, as we have only been in existence since July of 1958. Since then we have gone diving every week-end. Up 'till now we have only been exploring and learning how to use the basic equipment. On the 23rd of August we found what we believed to be an inboard motor from a boat which sank back in 1934, but upon recovering the motor from the water and scraping the barnacles from the metal, we discovered that it was a six cylinder car motor dating back to the 1930's.

Skin diving is becoming increasingly popular around our way due to a new diving store, The New Haven Diving Center, owned by George Burt. There are hopes that our membership will increase next year to about twenty-five members. Anyone interested in joining The East Haven Sea Serpents please contact Ed Mann at Hobart 9-9067 after 6 P.M.

Newport, Calif. . . .
NEWPORT HARBOR SUB-MARINERS

By John W. Miller

Club members are still bringing in White Sea Bass and Yellowtail taken locally. Ron Merker recently speared four whites in six dives. It looks like we'll be hearing more from Ken Green, since he finally got a barracuda.

As chef Jay Hull put it, "it was the most yet", our annual luau that is. Held at Salt Creek it was a gourmet' delight with diving contests, entertainment and lots of atmosphere.

Club members had a few tense moments a short time ago. When on a boat to Dana Point they speared and landed a lively Blue Shark a little over eight feet long.

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